HOW CLINTON **NEUTERED THE FEMINISTS Ugly truth from** the front line

FEATURES, PAGE



SUZANNE MOORE: WHY I HATE COOL BRITANNIA Just a dated PR stunt from the 1980s?

COMMENT, PAGE 23

HAS TIGER LOS SIGHT OF THE BALL? Golf's top earner runs into the sand



Newspaper of the Year for photographs INFP

Thousands of animals to be infected in BSE experiment

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A HUGE seven-year programme of experimentation and research into mad cow disease, involving hundreds of cattle and sheep and thousands of mice - some of them, genetically-engineered - has been quietly launched by the Government.

One Whitehall source told The Independent: "We are leading the world on research into BSE, which is quite right because we did, after all, give the world BSE in the first place."

The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (Maff) was reluctant to divulge details of the programme, which could ultimately cost more than £150m.

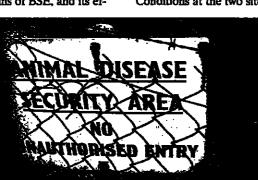
But The Independent has been told that work is being done at two sites. A number of up on an estate run by the Central Veterinary Laboratory Agency, near Weybridge, Surrey - where experiments and research are being carried out into the origins of BSE, and its ef-

fect on animals and people. One source said there were 700 cows there. Other research is being carried out at a ministry site near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Because the work involves infecting cows, sheep and mice with BSE and scrapie, the Government is probably concerned about the prospect of animal rights protests, and people living nearby might also become concerned for their safety. It is thought that residents in the Weybridge and Stratford areas are largely unaware of the nature of the BSE research.

A Maff spokesman said that up to the end of last month, the Government had spent a total of £80m on research into BSE. No firm estimates are available, gramme could eventually cost twice as much again. The Independent has been told that it is proving "a massive drain" on the Maff budget.

Conditions at the two sites



Keep out: Secret research into BSE is under way at two sites

are so restricted and secure that there is little human contact with the infected animals and there is an on-site veterinary

> unrelated sickness or injury. The ministry spokesman said work included "looking at the scrapie strains in sheep" to see if any of the strains were similar to BSE. Other work involved seeing how mice reacted to BSE. "Some of the mice have been engineered to be biologically similar, in the way

they react to BSE in cows." Government sources say that the research programme was initiated last August after the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) had urged greater

co-ordination of effort. The Independent has been told that work now being carried out is so thorough that the down the actual source of BSE.

While the official view continued to maintain that the source was cattle feed, and that was the consensus in SEAC, all possibilities were being seriously examined. Going right back to scratch, the research teams are ruling nothing in, and nothing out - and they are even examining the theory, presented to the BSE inquiry this week, that the disease might have been caused by organophosphates.

In similar vein, maternal transmission and the contamination of milk are also being examined - in spite of all previous research showing no evidence



The final fence for Britain's favourite chaser

Last hurdle: Brian Harding brings One Man, Britain's most celebrated jumper, over the eighth fence before he fell at the next fence and had to be put down during the Melling Chase at Aintree on the eve of today's Grand National Report, Time Off Photograph: Allsport

Today's news

Modigliani sale

A MODIGLIANI owned by Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury is to be auctioned at Sotheby's later this year to raise money for a Japanese cultural studies centre at the University of East Anglia.

Parents' night off

HEAD teachers yesterday called for annual parents' meetings to be abolished, saying that they created excessive bureaucracy. Page 5

Price of fame

DIRECT LINE is refusing to arrange household insurance for customers who know famous people such as politicians. The company says the risks of a celebrity having an accident in the homes of such policyholders are too Page 10 great.

Death camp sale

JEWISH groups in Germany want action to prevent striped uniforms worn by concentration camp inmates being sold at auction. The uniforms are the property of a collector with extreme right-wing sympathics.

INSIDE GUIDE:

Jail for sculptor who stole body parts

By Kim Sengupta

CREATING sculptures out of snatched body parts may well be art, but it is also a crime, as Anthony-Noël Kelly discovered yesterday when he was sentenced to nine months in prison in a landmark court

The 42-year-old nephew of the Duke of Norfolk aspired to be a new Leonardo da Vinci. But sentencing him at Southwark Crown Court, London, Judge Geoffrey Rivlin QC, said the theft of human remains "was revolting, an affront against every

haviour. The offence was a gross breach of trust".

At the end of an extraordinary trial the jury had taken seven hours to find Kelly and his accomplice Niel Lindsay guilty of the theft of human remains donated to the Royal College of Surgeons. Lindsay, who had smuggled "shrivelled" dismemberments out of the college, received a six-month sentence suspended for two

The police investigation into the affair began after a report about Kelly's artistic endeav-

reasonable concept of decent be- ours in the Independent on Sunday.

Kelly and Lindsay made legal history as the first bodysnatchers in Britain to be convicted of "stealing" human remains following Judge Rivlin's ruling that dead bodies can be subject to ownership and therefore subject to theft. In the past, bodysnatchers had been charged with the offence of outraging public decency.

Lawyers for the two men said they would be taking the matter to the Court of Appeal to reverse the new rulings and overturn the convictions. The

judge refused to release Kelly in the grounds of his family's eson bail pending the outcome of the appeal.

Kelly and Lindsay, a former undertaker's embalmer and junior technician at the RCS, had stolen up to 40 body parts, many of which were produced in court as evidence. Among the haul were three heads, three torsos, parts of a brain, six arms and an assortment of legs and feet. Kelly carried the remains away from the RCS in his rucksack, often travelling on the Tube back to his home in Clapham, south London. Some of the body parts were buried

tate at Romden Castle in Kent. Other parts were kept at the London home of a female friend, and one leg was stored in his attic.

Kelly, a former sculpture tutor at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, placed a price tag of £4,500 on two silver-gilded studies of an old man's head and torso. He had paid Lindsay £400 for his assistance. However, the court was told his finances were "very precarious indeed".

Maestro of the macabre

Woman who tried to sell Diana letters held at Waterloo

By Kim Sengupta.

THE WOMAN at the centre of the controversy over attempts to sell to a newspaper love letters from Diana, Princess of Wales to James Hewitt, was vesterday arrested by Scotland Yard officers.

Italian born Anna Ferretti. 39, a former fiancée of Mr Hewitt, was taken away by detectives for questioning as she was about to board a train to France from Waterloo International station in London. She will be

interviewed over the alleged been stored for four years at fortheft of the letters which were offered to the Mirror newspaper. Kensington Palace refused to

comment on Ms Ferretti's arrest. However, the developments are being monitored by lawyers for the Princess's executors. There is the likelihood of a legal dispute over the ownership of the letters. The copyright belongs to Diana's estate, but Mr Hewitt is expected to stress that they were sent to him, and are thus his property.

mer Army officer Mr Hewitt's home in Devon before they disappeared while he was on a trip to Spain. In one of them, sent while Mr Hewitt was serving in the Gulf War, the Princess had asked her then lover to destroy them, saying: "Please can you burn my letters after read-

wrong hands - please". Ms Ferretti, according to newspaper reports, had expressed regrets over her alleged The bundle of 62 letters had attempts to cash in on the let-

ing them in case they get into the

"People may see what I did was wrong. I now see how stupid I have been, but I am also very relieved they are back with the rightful owners. They were beautiful letters written by a caring woman who was deeply in love. Now she is gone, it is only right these mementos should be with her sons".

The letters are now in safekeeping at Kensington Palace after being handed over by the Mirror pending possible legal action. Ms Ferretti is said

ters. She is quoted as saying: to have claimed that Mr Hewitt himself wanted to make money from the love letters in the future, but this has been vehemently denied by him.

Scotland Yard said it had begun investigations after a complaint by Mr Hewitt.



WEATHER, P2 ◆ CROSSWORDS, P28 AND TIME OFF P28 ◆ TELEVISION, THE EYE ◆ FULL CONTENTS, P2

Optimism grows for **Ulster** deal

By David McKittrick and Fran Abrams

THE MOOD surrounding the Northern Ireland talks process lightened appreciably yesterday, with a growing optimism in the air that a deal could be reached by the deadline date of next Thursday.

Several previously pessimistic close observers and participants reported a distinct improvement in the atmosphere as the talks entered their final phase. A weekend of intense activity is now anticipated.

The key to the final stretch entres on the talks chairman, the former US senator George Mitchell, who was last night distributing a final working paper to the parties involved. A draft copy had been given to the British and Irish governments, and was the subject of talks yesterday between Tony Blair and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

Tels weekend Mr Mitchell is to meet all the parties for negotiations with the intention of producing a draft of a settlement

should "eat, sleep, negotiate". Mr Blair and Mr Ahern had three brief meetings on the fringes of the Asia-Europe meeting, which both were attending. They were being kept informed of developments as officials continued to negotiate over the draft agreement. After a 10-minute meeting in the_ morning and a very brief session at kinchtime, they spent half an

hour together before going to a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

Mr Blair's official spokesman said the real differences were not between the British and Irish but between other parties in the talks process. "We don't deny there are considerable differences that have to be overcome, but there is an absolute determination within the time we have got left to get this thing sorted," he said.

The feeling grew yesterday that while many key details remained to be resolved none of those involved appeared to be on the point of denouncine the shape of the expected package.

Exchanges, some of them sharp, continued publicly, but sources said serious business was being carried out within the talks. All parties, including Sinn Fein, were said to be immersed in the details of a possible deal.

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday: "We are still negotiating the detail, everybody is now engaging in the real crunch issues ... there are still document on Monday. He has differences, but the areas where already urged the parties to view there were differences is decounts, not now."

She predicted negotiations would go "right to the edge," adding: "There are areas of differences but areas I think can be settled within the next six days. No one will get 100 per cent of what they want, but they will get something they can live with."

March banned, page 6. Leading article and letters, page 22





Child killer to be tagged on release from jail

Crime Correspondent

THE NOTORIOUS childkiller and paedophile Sidney Cooke is to be fitted with an electronic tag to enable police and probation officers to keep track of him after he is released

Cooke has also agreed to be supervised by the probation service and will be housed in selocation outside London.

The House Office has contacted probation leaders throughout the country in an attempt to find a place where Cooke, aged 68, can be kept under surveillance by the police and safe from vigilantes.

The elaborate arrangements are needed because of a loophole in the law that allows Cooke and five other dangerfrom jail without supervision.

It is understood that the police have forced Cooke to cooperate and voluntarily go to a secure hostel or unit after threatening publicly to disclose his whereabouts if he simply left jail and moved into private accommodation. By agreeing to be fitted with an electronic tag - devices which are being increasingly used to monitor criminals, the police will be alerted when he leaves his accommodation and can ensure he does not go close to areas containing schools and playgrounds.

Cooke has refused to have

any clinical treatment, but is believed to have become increasingly fearful for his safety once he leaves jail after serving 11 years of a 16-year sentence. No suitable secure housing

could be found in London.

from Hackney - wanted to stay, so he is being sent to his second "choice". He is due to be released on Monday but the authorities are expected to try and slip him secretly out of Wandsworth jail in south-west London without alerting jour-

nalists and demonstrators. The authorities are desperate to avoid the public hysteria

Cooke was part of the paedophile gang that raped and killed 14-year-old Jason Swift. Police in Brighton were powerless to act as they watched Oliver contact a convicted paedophile and then visit a library and the seafront to watch children. He later had to go into hiding and stayed in a police cell for about four months at a cost of about £100,000 before agree-

vate clinic.

The cases of Cooke and Oliver highlight the difficulties the authorities face with a dealing with sex offenders who are not covered by tough new laws. There are 150 offenders currently in prison who will escape any control when they come out of jail. About six are considered to be extremely dangerous.

Offenders covered by the

force in October 1992, can be forced to have treatment, stay in secure accommodation and be supervised by probation officers. The Association of Chief Officers of Probation yesterday

urged the Government to set up a "national co-ordinating board on dangerous sex offenders" to draw up a national practices and treatment of people sentenced before 1992.

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

- Chernobyl Legacy: A new catastrophe that threatens 50 million people
- Manhunting: The organised way to find a hushand
 - Rupert of the Rhine: Can Muroch learn to love Europe?
- Terrible Teens: Sulky adolescents and the parents who endure them
- Fashion Special: Sixteen pages of the best in all-Amercian style

Prescott dealt blow over housing plans

By Kate Watson-Smyth

JOHN PRESCOTT, the deputy prime minister, was dealt a double blow yesterday in the Government drive to develop parts of the green belt for hous-

The High Court ruled that he had failed to abide by the Government's own guidelines in giving permission for 113 homes to be built on a greenfield site. at a south coast resort as Hertfordshire County Council announced that it had decided to delay plans for 10,000 houses to the west of Stevenage. The council will ask Mr Prescott to

The environmental group friends of the Earth welcomed the ruling, describing it as "the first time that the Government has faced - and lost - a High Court challenge to a greenfield housing decision".

Mr Prescott, the Secretary of State for Environment, Regions and Transport, caused uproar in the Commons in February when he announced new

of housing to be built on recy-

He has already been asked to intervene in the development of 1,500 houses in the Aire Valley, Yorkshire, and could be facing a flood of appeals from other councils as well as Hertfordshire.

But the Government has insisted that 4.4 million new households will be formed between 1991 and 2016 in Eng-

The plans to build 113 homes in Peacehaven, East Sussex, caused widespread local protests because they were said to threaten the only undeveloped piece of land between Worthing and Newhaven.

An 18.61 hectare plot at Valley Road was earmarked for up to 113 bungalows and houses after planners identified "a shortfall" in the amount of land needed in the Lewes district for housing over the next

But Mr Justice Harrison ruled yesterday that Mr Prescott "south of England."

Blair on the spot as Hague

guidelines requiring 60 per cent erred in law when he gave permission for the scheme last November.

He said the minister and a public planning inquiry inspector had failed properly to consider concerns expressed by Lewes District Council that the development would "seriously prejudice" the local authority's strategy of focusing local development away from the already

over-crowded coastal strin. He added that neither the inspector nor Mr Prescott had taken account of the Government's own guidelines that planning permissions should not be granted where they would predetermine or prejudice local strategic planning consid-

After the hearing, Simon Festing, FoE housing campaigner, said: "He [Mr Prescott] cannot ride roughshod over the opinions of local people by allowing so much greenfield development. "He must act now to lower rural house-building targets in the hard-pressed



Fashion conscious: A model carries a baby down the catwalk, both wearing outfits by Isaac Mizrahi at the designer's autumn show in New York

INDEPENDENT

■ Exclusive series: Drugs, guns, knives pornography... the extraordinary life of William Burroughs, father of The Beats



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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for C newspapers in the first half of 1997.

policy towards the Governand ministers.

legislation with tacit backing for a law on union recognition. On Monday in the Commons the Conservative leader will call for a stringent test of support before recognition is granted, rather than register his implacable opposition to the whole policy. Mr Hague will urge that half of the total workforce should vote for union

British Isles weather

Birmingham Sh 71 52 Jersey

mos recent available figure at noon local time C.cloudy; Cl.clear, Flair; Fg.fog; Hz.haze; M.mist; R.min;

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C 11 52 Plymouth Sh 11 52

those who vote in a ballot. His call echoes a argument made by the Confederation of British Industry in its submission to ministers, and places Tony Blair in a difficult position.

representation before it is granted, rather than half of

ment's proposed employment

While the Prime Minister may favour placing relatively high barriers in the way of recognition - and will not be discomforted by siding with the CBI - he might draw the line at representation law. The newly personal contracts.

finds flexibility on unions agreeing with the Opposition. merged ADT has decided to An intense debate over the withdraw recognition from the precise required the majority, connecting the process of the factories and the best required has been carried on in that it only covers 7 per cent of private between union leaders the new group's 4,400 work-Mr Hague's change of tack claimed that it represented 90 follows his comments recently

troduction of a national minimum wage, he would not seek to repeal the law in government. His return to the theme of employment policy will come on Monday, when the Tories have chosen to debate union recog- It is thought the Government

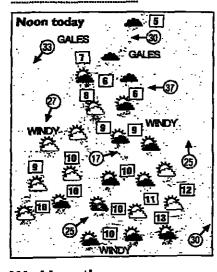
Amalgamated Engineering and be able to draw up the "con-Electrical Union, accused the stituencies" for ballots on recog-Tory leader of a retreat. "The nition. In the ADT case the road to Damascus is becoming union believes the constituencongested. If this is the latest cy should simply consist of en-Tory U-turn, I welcome it." His organisation is currently threatening strike action in a recog- workforce. Unions are also connition dispute at ADT Fire and Security in the run-up to the clude small firms from the publication of the "Fairness at Work" White Paper, which will contain proposals for a union collective agreements through

force. The union however per cent of the engineers at one that, while he opposed the in- of the constituent companies and still has more than half at the new group.

The AEEU's dispute illus-

trates one of the other principai concerns expressed by trade unionists over the planned law. might favour the CBI's con-Ken Jackson, leader of the tention that employers should gineers, but managers argue that it should involve the whole cerned the Government may exlegislation and allow companies to lure employees away from

WEATHER



Scotland will continue to see gales in the north and many parts of the UK will have a blustery day. Generally cloudy in Scotland with any sunshine more likely in the west. All parts will be showery. The showers prolonged and heavy especially in northern and eastern Scotland, but all parts are at risk of seeing a heavy shower. There is also the risk of thunder and hail in places, especially Northern Ireland, Wales and western England, where the showers may

Outlook for the next few days A blustery, showery day. Some sunny breaks will develop in western Scotland but the north and east will be dult. Some of the showers will be heavy but any snow showers will be confined to the northern part of the Highlands. The rest of the UK will also remain showery. On Sunday there will be less wind in Scotland. All parts are at risk of seeing showers but these will be scattered allowing longer sunny breaks to develop.

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High tides London

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Animals dying in forest

The fires in Indonesia are raging again, forcing animals out of the forests to die at the hands

These forests are one of the last remaining habitats of the orang-utan, so this rare animal is now facing extinction. The life-saving rains may not come until October.

The WSPA-funded Wanariset Orang-Utan Rescue Centre has given sanctuary to hundreds of orphaned baby orang-utans, adult orangs, sun bears and many other animals. Now the Centre itself is threatened by the flames. The 3,500 hectare research forest around it has already been

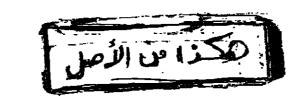
Please help us save the Centre, and the animals that depend on it, by sending a donation

WSPA is urgenity sending food and veterinary materials to the Centre. Rescue teams are already risking their lives to save animals from the fires.

Help WSPA save animals from death in the fires

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Jury clears man accused of growing cannabis

A MAN accused of growing and giving cannabis to his wife, be a waste of taxpayers' mona multiple sclerosis sufferer, was yesterday cleared by a jury's majority verdict of cultivating, cultivating with intent to supply, and supplying the

Cab driver Alan Blythe, 52. of Runcom, Cheshire, had used the defence of duress of circumstances, which the jury at Warrington Crown Court accepted.

He claimed he had grown. the cannabis and supplied it to his wife Judith, 48, because he was afraid that without it the acute symptoms of MS couldtrigger her snieide

The jury ignored the judge's iggestion that Mr Blythe had failed to prove duress of circonstances for the charge of cultivation. But they followed this advice in relation to possession, for which Mr Blythe was fined £100.

Afterwards, Mr Blythe said: "I don't know what to say. I am so relieved. I do not think the prosecution should have been brought. I think they should have dropped the charges when the defence asked them

"They said it was going to ev and it was."

He said his wife, who was too ill to attend court and hear the verdict, had also been very relieved when he told: her the news on the phone.

be able to stop supplying his wife with the Class B drug. "I have never stopped giving her cannabis and I never

will," he said.

He vowed that he would not

The trial had heard that 10 cannabis plants, pots of cannabis bush heads and a variety of growing equipment were found during a police raid on the Blythes' house in July last year.

In evidence, Mr Blythe described how his wife was diagnosed with the debilitating and terminal MS in 1983, 15 years after they married, and her condition steadily wors-

Prescription drugs did little to help and her main symptom, acute attacks of dizziness, culminated in one three-week period in 1989 when she was bedridden, virtually unable to

On Thursday, Mrs Blythe MS sufferers.

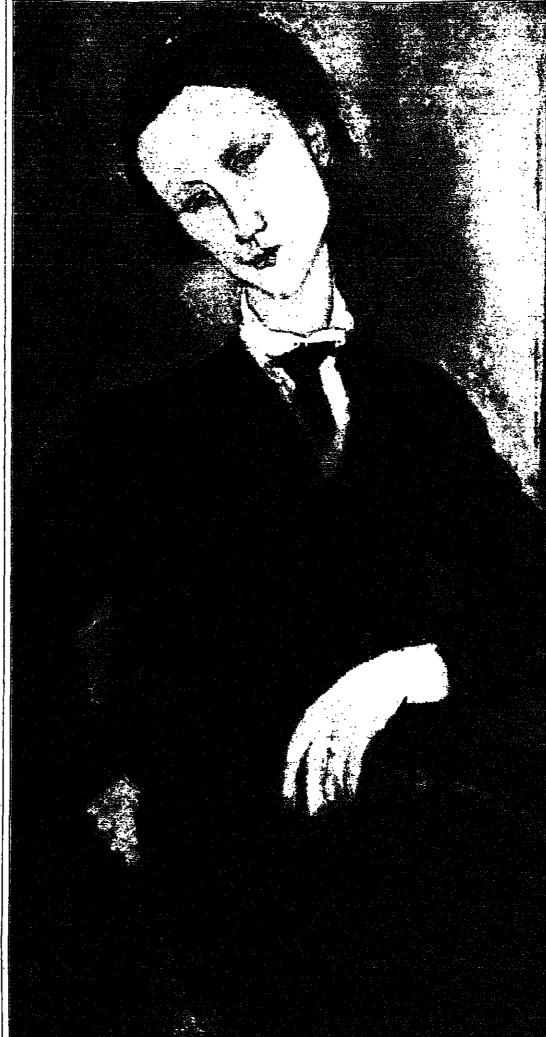
told the court: "I had a very severe attack in 1989 and it was so severe I wanted to die. I wanted someone to kill me.

"I felt as though I had been thrown into a bottomless pit at 100mph and I couldn't even move my eyeballs. Every time I moved, I was back in this bottomless pit being thrown

Asked about what happened after the attack by defending counsel Andrew Mattison, Mr Blythe said: "We talked in depth about finishing her life and she said she would not be able to live through that again and, of course, I told her I could never kill her.

"After the worst attack she had, we discussed it over a period of months with me telling her I would definitely never be able to kill her. As time went by she told me that one of her friends, one of our friends, would help her to dieshe made it clear she would die if she went through that again."

It was two or three years later that the couple tried cannabis after reading a magazine article discussing claims that it had beneficial effects for



Sainsbury puts study of Japan in the frame

By Kate Watson-Smyth

SIR ROBERT and Lady Sainsbury are to auction a painting from their extensive collection to raise money for a Japanese cultural studies centre at the University of East Anglia. The oil by Amedeo Modigliani is to be auctioned at Sotheby's later this year and is

expected to fetch between £4m and £6m. Portrait of Baranowski was painted in Paris in 1918 and is considered one of the artist's most distinguished works. Sir Robert acquired it in 1937.

Sir Robert and his wife are already major benefactors of the university, having loaned their entire art collection in 1973.

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts was ppened to the public some five years later and also houses the school of world art and museology. The Modigliani was part of the original collection and has been on display at the centre since its opening.

Sir Robert has now decided to sell it to raise money for the Japanese unit.

Anne Ogden, spokeswoman for the university, said the Sainsbury Centre was due to celebrate its 20th anniversary next week. "The original collection comprises

thousands of paintings and sculptures. There are paintings by Henry Moore and Francis Bacon and artefacts from all over the world."

She said the university was chosen because Sir Robert's daughter, Annabel Kanubus, studied maths and physics there in the late 1960s. "Sir Robert had already decided that he would like to give their collection to a university and have it displayed in a public building. He offered it to us and as we were a very new university at the time we were delighted to

The original collection contains several Japanese pieces and Ms Ogden said that Sir Robert was keen to set up a research centre for Japanese cultural studies. "He is very interested in Japan and has been buying works from there for a number of years." she said. Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, adviser to the

Sainsbury Collection and former vicechancellor of the university, said the centre would provide a tremendous boost to the study of Japanese culture in Britain. Melanie Chore, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Europe and head of the company's Impressionist and Modern -== Art Department in London, said: "It is a great privilege to be asked to sell such a beautiful portrait. It is double rewarding to know that the proceeds are going to set up such a worthwhile educational enterprise."

In his brief working life at the forefront of Parisian avant-garde, Modigliani established himself as one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

Portrait of Baranowksi was painted two years before his death in 1920, aged 36. Baranowski was a young Polish émigré and, although he never wrote any verse, the painting has become known as The Poet.

, Carpetbagger sets sights on RAC

THE ROYAL Automobile Club, Britain's oldest motoring organisation, was thrown into disarray yesterday after the ontgoing chairman asked full alise" the club.

Taking his cue from the conclub, based in Pall Mall, Longanisation in return for either stock market shares or cash. ment.

Mr Rose wrote to all 12,000 full members saving "profes-

continue to be employed at every stage and its their preliminary view that a sum of £20,000 could be realised for each full member".

sional advisers will, of course,

For a £620 signing on fee members to vote to "demuta- and another £600 a year, full members can take a quick swim in the sumptuous sureties - such as the Halifex - to don RAC Club, or swing their proposed to the members of the Park country club, near Ensom. Surrey. Under Mr Rose's plan don, to sell their stake in the or- they would also see a 1,900 per cent increase in their invest-

> It is not clear how the 6 million associate RAC members,

who pay between £29 and £150 for the breakdown service, would benefit. The RAC is rich with annual sales of £300m it makes a pre-tax profit of £60m a year. Recently the club acquired the BSM empire of

The RAC management is less than pleased with the moves made by its chairman. A statement released vesterday tire in May". It adds tersely: "The letter

driving instructors for £54m.

was written without the knowledge or agreement of the Committee of the Royal Automobile Club or the Board of

On the block: Proceeds from the sale of Portrait of Baranowski, by Modigliani, will go towards the establishment of a centre for Japanese cultural studies at the University of East Anglia

Queen of Aintree feels the heat from sisters eager for a place in the winners' enclosure

JENNY PITMAN goes for her third Grand National this afternoon. Julie Camacho goes for her first, in fact her first winner of any description. It is one of the charms of the Grand National that the world's greatest steeplechase can still be collected by the unheralded.

nimals

That cannot happen in the Derby indeed, the Flat is a most barren land for women trainers. National Hunt racing is not so dominated by the dollar and offers greater opportunities for the little man or little woman.

Pitman is attempting to become an even littler woman and there will be a lot less of the "cuddly one" to observe in the winners' enclosure this afternoon should Nahthen Lad

IN THE NEWS

WOMEN TRAINERS

be successful. But while Pitman

slims down there will never be any diminution in her achievements at Aintree. The Upper Lambourn trainer has won this race twice, with Corbiere and Garrison Savannah, and was also the steward behind Esha Ness, first past the post in the void race of 1993. Both her ex-husband Richard and son Mark have suffered narrow defeats as jockeys

in her horses each autumn it is this single contest which preoccupies her mind as she casts her eye over a talented string. Since Lord Gulliver fell at the 13th in 1981 she has saddled a further 34 runners and completed just about as many interviews with Des Lynam. Her many strands with the National were undoubtedly the reason for her being appoint-

ed OBE last month. The Queen Of Aintree has much female company this year, with five others of her sex launching themselves at the prize. According to the betting lists the greatest opportunity belongs to Julie Camacho's Avro Anson, although the horse's aversion to the

in the race. When la Pitman brings prevailing wet conditions is bor- deed, the big race of 1988 was one records all her winners with a red dering on hydrophobia and he may be withdrawn.

Camacho has held a licence since New Year's Day, when she took over the reins at Star Cottage Stables in Malton from her father Maurice. She has yet to experience what it is like to welcome back a winner. An accomplished rider, Camacho is assisted by her husband, Steve Browne, a former pupil assistant with Luca Cumani, in the care of 29 horses.

Venetia Williams, the trainer of Celtic Abbey, too was an equestrian of some note, so much so that she is one of only 12 women to have ridden in the National. She is one of the 10 who failed to complete; in-

of the few recent National denouements she failed to witness. Williams and Marcolo went their separate ways at Becher's Brook and the rider was left unconscious on the floor. Two weeks later she broke her neck at Worcester, at the same time severing her connection with competitive riding.

She became her own boss in 1995, training from a base at Kings Caple, near Hereford. The results were stunning. This season she has trained 37 winners from 111 runners for a strike-rate of 33 per cent, a level of excellence unmatched by any trainer in the top 50. If Celtic Abbeywins, it will certainly be a redletter day for his trainer. She

felt-tip pen and the losers in black. The bookmakers will be in the

black if any of the other three women-trained horses succeed. Pabricator, prepared by former rider Muriel Naughton, and Griffins Bar, who is sent out again by Pam Sly after falling at the second here on Thursday, have chances only slightly up from nil. Mary Reveley is the most successful female trainer operating today but her sights tend to be aimed at her local exotica of Sedgefield and Redear.

For those who want to bracket the ladies together in a six-pack, Coral offer a price for the fairer sex. All their horses can run for you at a price of 7-1. — Richard Edmondson



Williams: Stunning record after setting up as own boss

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Prize humour: (left to right) Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden joking at a reception at the Theatre Royal in London yesterday before receiving a Broadcasting Press Guild award for their Radio 4 programme, I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue

Public opinion on fox-hunting 'being ignored'

Political Correspondent

THE Government ignored public opinion when it refused to find parliamentary time for a Bill to ban hunting, the head of day rather than return to their Britain's biggest polling organisation has claimed.

Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, said only half a per cent of the population had attended the Countryside March in London - protesting against moves to ban fox-hunting - a figure which in polling terms would be considered "statistically insignificant".

"Can the Government ignore that? No, it seems they cannot," he wrote in the latest edition of British Public Opin-

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what about public opinion as represented by their elected representatives in Parliament, their MPs? They are the lot who stayed in Westminster on a Friconstituencies to give the second reading of Mike Foster's Bill the biggest majority ever recorded for a Private Member's Bill. Can the Government ignore that? Yes, it seems they can."

Mr Worcester said systematic polls showed that 63 per cent of people living in or near the countryside supported the Bill, brought by the Labour MP for Worcester.

The Countryside March had attracted mainly people from the higher social classes, he said

- 82 per cent were ABC1 compared with 48 per cent of the electorate. More than half were from the AB professional and managerial classes which represented just 18 per cent of the adult population.

said they would vote Tory in a general election, while just 7 per cent were Labour supporters. They also displayed strong con-much," she said.

ion, a MORI publication. "And victions on a number of issues which have recently exercised the Conservatives, with 87 per cent "strongly opposed" to the beef-on-the-bone ban and 48 per cent "strongly opposed" to right-to-roam legislation.

Janet George, chief press officer for the Countryside Alliance, said she did not accept Mr Worcester's poll of the march. Some observers had claimed MORI's pollsters had interviewed mainly the betterdressed marchers, she said.

Recent polls commissioned by the alliance from Research Studies of Great Britain showed that 55 per cent would instruct their MP to vote for a ban on hunting, but only 47 per cent wanted to see it made a criminal offence. While 67 per cent of 16-24 year-olds wanted a ban, the figure dropped to 39 per cent in the 55-plus age group.

"I would contend that the vast majority of those people would not cross the road to sign Eight out of 10 marchers had a petition for a ban. People may be against hunting in the way they are against all sorts of things, but they don't care that

Twins die in 'suspicious' fire at their Ayrshire home

A HOUSEFIRE which left young twins dead yesterday is being treated as suspicious by Strathclyde police.

Seven-year-old Kevin and Louise Miller were found dead in their Ayrshire flat by firefighters who had battled to rescue the children from the blaze. Their 31-year-old mother, Janice Graham, is being treated in hospital for smoke inhalation. Superintendent Iain Gordon said forensic officers were still at the scene in Kilwinning carrying out "extensive inquiries in an effort to establish the cause". Police are waiting to interview

The fire broke out yesterday morning and a neighbour raised the alarm after hearing a smoke detector go off. The fire brigade arrived within minutes to find smoke billowing from a first floor

Soccer fan barred world-wide

A soccer fan was facing up to a football-free future yesterday after being barred from matches worldwide for hurling racist abuse at players and fans as he watched his local team.

Magistrates blacklisted Cambridge United fan Daniel James, 21, from every league match in England and Wales for two years. And, at Thursday's hearing, chairman Michael Marriott ordered James, of Cambridge, to report to police in Britain when certain overseas fixtures are being played over the same period. Cambridge United have banned James from their ground for five years and Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, has held up the handling of the case as an example of how to tackle racism in football.

Containers burst on beach

ABOUT 20 tonnes of cotton waste material were washed up on the east coast yesterday after six containers were swept overboard from a Cyprus-registered cargo ship, The Christian, in stormy weather. The material, which is non-toxic and used in the oil industry for cleaning up spillages, landed on Eyemouth beach in Berwickshire, after Thursday night's torrential rain and gale-force winds. Two of the containers burst open on the beach, one caught on rocks and the other three were last night still floating in the North Sea.

Arsenic woman must wait

A BRADFORD woman jailed for life for killing her lover with arsenic must wait three weeks for the outcome of her appeal. Zoora Shah was jailed in 1993 for murdering Mohammed Azam; she pleaded not guilty and declined to testify. Campaigners say the case was a failure of justice and she suffered mental and sexual abuse. The Court of Appeal heard that she feared revenge against her children if the truth emerged. Her QC. Edward Fitzgerald, said the conviction was unsafe and should be set aside, and a re-trial ordered. - Kate Watson-Smyth

Mrs Merton's tea party

THE comedienne Caroline Aherne, alias Mrs Merton, is taking over from the chimps to star in television adverts for PG Tips from Monday. It is only the second series of commercials for the teabags not to feature the famous chimps. But they will be back - Miss Aherne, who will star as a check-out girl - is only appearing for a special month-long branding campaign.



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Spring offensive: Major Eric Joyce, who is facing disciplinary action for criticising the Army's 'class-ridden culture' Photograph: Chris Ison

Heads want to axe parents' meetings

By Ben Russell

Bautation Comessionder

ANNUAL parents' meetings should be abolished to ease the burden of bureaucracy in schools, head teachers said vesterday.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the meetings, which are required by law, were "the most wasteful use of time and resources devised" and should be scrapped. He said the meetings created hours of work for teachers and heads, but most parents tailed to turn up.

Mr Hart said scrapping the parents' meetings would help to defuse the row over excessive bureaucracy which threatens to disrupt schools this summer. "Governing bodies are now stacked full of parents, and quite rightly so. And parents have plenty of opportunities to put ques-

ions to head teachers," he said. Members of the National Assoriation of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers are expected to back a work-to-rule in protest at their workload which could mean teachers boycotting meetings and putting limits on school reports. The Na-

nounce the result of a similar ballot on industrial action next week.

Mr Hart said the action threatened to derail the process of setting improvement targets for all schools which is at the heart of Government plans to drive up standards.

"Target-setting in schools might have to be sacrificed in the short term, until we have a solution to this problem," Mr Hart said, "The NAHT will be urging the Government to work with teachers and their unions as a matter of top-priority to find a solution to this problem, if possible during the summer term.

Annual meetings were often simply a formality, said, "Parents just don't turn up. I don't know of a single parents' body that supports a statutory annual meeting."

But heads and school governors "put in a lot of time and effort preparing for them, to very little effeet. If the Government was willing to abolish the annual parents' meeting it would at least send a signal to teachers that they were serious about reducing unnecessary demands on

The annual meetings are in ad-

tional Union of Teachers will an- dition to normal parents' evenings designed to let parents know how their children are doing in class. Government sources said no changes to the law on meetings were planned.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment insisted that the Government had already acted to help cut red tape. She said: "The governing body of a school is accountable to parents and the annual parents' meeting is the only opportunity parents have to question the governing body."

Mr Hart said head teachers tried to keep bureaucracy to the bare minimum, but were bound by the requirements of legislation, quangos and local authorities.

He said the union would be advising heads not to confront teachers who refused to take part in meetings or complete paperwork, as long as the action did not affect discipline, teaching or pastoral care.

He said: "We do not want to see conflict between heads and teachers as a result of action to reduce bureaucracy. We have a common interest and we must not blame people within schools for the situation we find ourselves in.

Major digs in for battle over Army culture

By Kim Sengupta

TWO CONTRASTING faces sation drive were on show administrative dismissal on the vesterday.

same time, the hierarchy faced is expected to be dismissed. a fresh challenge from an officer who claimed he had been pendent yesterday: "In retrosuspended for advocating precisely the same reforms.

threatened with court martial senior officers were determined for writing an outspoken criu: cism of class-ridden army cul- and I should be got rid off in ture, has updated the pamphlet some other way. which is being republished by the Fabian Society due to "high demand". He has also decided that if, as seems likely, his sus- of things, but there is a very real pension is followed by dismissal, he will appeal to the European Court of Human

highly embarrassing for the Ministry of Defence. Major Joyce's public attack on what he saw as an outmoded system riddled with snobbery and prejudice incensed some senior Joyce while in Opposition, yesofficers and was expected to lead to a court martial. But there was a rethink after it became clear that if he were to Court he was likely to succeed.

peared to be a u-turn by the Army hierarchy and Major Joyce was not only returned to duty, but his proposals for reforms were debated among fel- no going back on either of low officers. He was also allowed to publish a journal, The Armed Services Forum, in which there were several articles by senior officers stressing the need

for the Army to evolve and change.

But at the end of last month, of the Army's great moderni- Major Joyce was told he faces original charges of commenting There was the launch of a to the media without approval £2.5m Saatchi and Saatchi-in- and for "uncommandability". spired recruitment campaign to The matter is due to be conshed the Army's image as a pre- sidered by the Army Board serve of the white male. At the within a month, and the Major

Major Joyce told The Indespect it seems that when they decided it would not be advis-Major Eric Joyce, who was able to court-martial me, a few

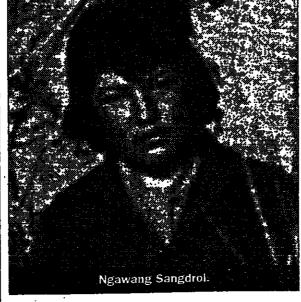
> "I am hoping I will be allowed to address the Army Board to put forward my side possibility that I will be administratively discharged.

"If that happens then we shall be taking the matter to the The legal action could be European Court. Ironically what they seemed to want to avoid in the first place is now likely to happen."

John Reid, the armed forces minister, who had met Major terday launched the recruitment drive saying there had been a turnaround in perceptions of the Army, particularly take his case to the European on racial issues, and he was determined to build on that. Re-Subsequently there ap- cruitment of women, who now account for 14 per cent of new intake, is also at record levels.

Dr Reid said: "The Army is back in business. There will be those. We want to best and brightest in the British Army irrespective of sex, irrespective of ethnic background and irrespective of social background."

Free Tibet. Two words that can get you nine windowless ce



To the people of Tibet these are words that touch their very souls. But to dare to express them in public is to risk everything.

For ever since this once free country was invaded by China, such words have become an anathema.

and imprisonment.

And the authorities have no qualms about how such

part in a demonstration, she spent 9 months in jail before the authorities decided she was too young to be tried. (But not apparently too young to be beaten up badly whilst she was there.)

Yet this did not silence her. Quite the opposite.

secret recording of National songs. And although the tape found its way outside, it also earned her another 6 years inside. (With no account taken of the fact that a UN ruling had declared her original sentence unlawful).

grave 'offences' should be dealt with. China has long recognised the 'merits' of arrest, torture

A common form of 'persuasion' in Tibet.

Yet it has never found the Tiberan people easily

These words continue to re-echo around the world. They are words we know will one day lead to the

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Initials Surname to add a staggering nine further years to her six year sentence, she shouted the words 'Free Tiber'. Please send to: Free Tibet Campaign
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Policeman gets jail for taking bribes

A GARDA who took £16,000 in brides from members of the gang alleged to have killed Dublin crime journalist Veronica Guerin was jailed for four £50,000. A third, Patrick and a half years by Dublin Cucuir Criminal Court yesterday, writes Aian Murdoch in Dublin. John O'Neill, 34, had ad-

mitted taking the money on dates between November 1995 and October 1996. He resigned from the force after his arrest nances, the court heard. His in 1996. The court heard the hand-

ed by the gang on video and was given for future favours. Det Insp Tom O'Loughlin stressed O'Neili was never in a position to obtain high-level data.

In a statement, O'Neill revealed he took bribes of £100 to £5,000. They were paid in an jor Dublin drugs gang.

Two men accused of handing over the payments, Derek O'Driscoll, 24, and Anthony Long, 42, were each fined Ward, charged with making a £100 payment, was put on probation. O'Neill, 34, who has three

young children, had accumulated debts of £100,000 and was unable to manage his fidebts were so large his net weekly earnings after repayower of some bribes was record-ments were just £8. In 1990 he won the top bravery award, the Scott Medal, after taking a shotgun from an armed robber.

A uniformed garda mainly involved in prosecuting traffic offences, O'Neill had joined the force in 1985. He is the first member of the force since its inattempt to obtain intelligence ception in 1922 to be convictabout investigations into a ma- ed of bribery and corruption

Originally imprisoned at the age of 13 for taking

Released, but unable now to rejoin her nunnery. she took part in another demonstration the following year. Arrested again, her sentence this time was 3 years in the notorious Drapchi prison.

Whilst in prison, she and 13 other nuns made a But even this failed to crush her spirit.

The electric baton. In a further act of defiance two years later, an act which was

persuaded by them. As the experience of Ngawang

Sangdrol, a Buddhist nun, so touchingly testifles. This advertisement has been produced and paid for entirely by supporters of Free Tibet Campaign 9 Islington Green London NI 2XH. Revamped parades commission stops controversial Easter procession in Belfast as relatives of Bloody Sunday victims welcome investigation

Anger as loyalist march is banned

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

along Belfast's lower Ormeau Road on Easter Monday has been banned by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission, in its first adjudication on a controversial parade.

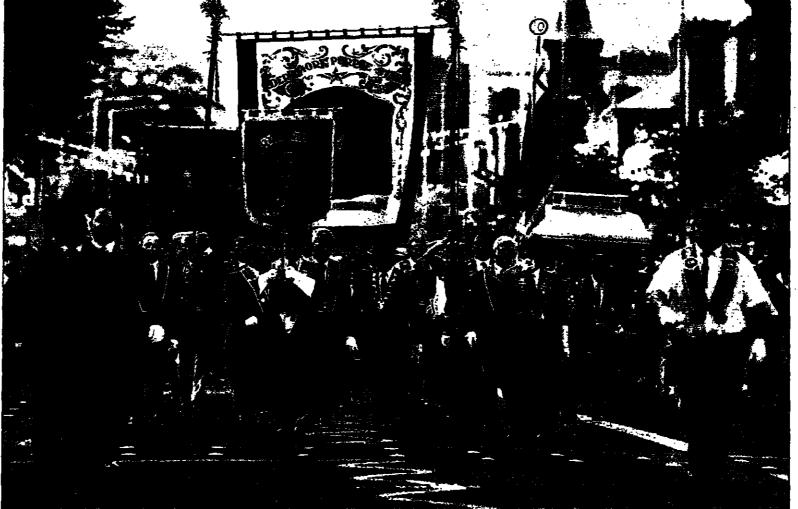
Earlier this year, a new law gave the commission powers to adjudicate on parades during Northern Ireland's often troublesome marching season. Its first judgment was yesterday criticised by the loyalist organisation involved, the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

The authorities hope the Commission's rulings will avoid some of the clashes which often attend the marching season, in which around 3,000 loyalist marches take place. Most are routine and pass off peacefully, but a handful can give rise to serious confrontations.

The Apprentice Boys have traditionally marched along the lower Ormeau Road in south A PROPOSED loyalist march Belfast, but over the years the area has become predominantly Catholic and in recent times opposition has mounted to their

The Commission chairman, Alistair Graham, praised the Apprentice Boys for initiatives they had taken, but said that in the final analysis, the Commission had been most concerned at the impact a parade would have on relationships within the community.

The Commission said it believed the ground should be prepared for one or more parades to take place along the route during the summer, but said local people and the loyalist marching organisations needed to do more to create "the necessary atmosphere of sensitivity and tolerance that would



residents said they were "absolutely relieved".

Loyalist critics of the decision, however, claimed it bending maybe to those who are routes?"

MATSUI

SOOG TELEPHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING M

spokesman for lower Ormeau violence. The Governor of the tion to Northern Ireland. They

Welcoming the decision, a amounted to capitulation to hell-bent on bringing destruc-Apprentice Boys, Alistair Simpare sidestepping the whole isson, said he was disgusted, sue. What do we have to do to adding: "Mr Graham has been enable us to walk our traditional

is both a leading member of the Orange Order and a senior member of the Ulster Unionist Party's talks team, added: "I am disappointed that the Parades

Jeffrey Donaldson MP, who Commission have decided once again to give way to people who have threatened violence

against this parade." Later this month, the Commission is scheduled to an-

Boys from the Protestant upper Ormeau area marching down the Catho lower Ormeau Road Photograph: Pacer

nounce its preliminary views on other parades in places such as Drumcree, Dunloy and Bellaghy. Each decision is likely to produce spirited criticism from one side or the other.

Decisions are open to High Court challenges, while in each case the Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable, Ronnie Planagan, can appeal to Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, asking her to overturn adjudications on public order grounds.

The key decision will concern the Drumeree march in early July, which is now thought of as "Drumcree 4" because serious confrontations have taken place there in each of the past three years. In each case, the march has eventually been shepherded through with the assistance of large numbers of

One widely-held theory is that the Commission will allow the Drumcree march to go ahead, but will seek to balance that decision by banning some of the earlier parades. Sources close to the Commission deny this, saying each march is to be considered under its own particular circumstances.

Leading article, page 22



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Second inquiry begins a into Bloody Sunday

By David McKittrick

THE SECOND official inquiry into Bloody Sunday, when troops killed 14 civilians in one of the landmark tragedies of a quarter-century of troubles, formally opened yesterday at the Guildhail in Londonderry.

The first investigation, conducted by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, within months of the shootings, concluded that the firing of guns by some of the paratroopers involved had "bordered on the reckiess".

The relatives of the dead, who yesterday staged a silent march to the opening hearing, hope that the new inquiry, headed by Lord Saville of Newdigate, will produce a more critical verdict than Widgery.

The new inquiry was announced earlier this year by Tony Blair following a lengthy campaign by the victims' relatives, human rights groups and the Irish government. Mr Biair said then: "The aim of the inquiry is not to accuse individuals or institutions, or to invite fresh recriminations, but to establish the truth about what happened on that day, so far as that can be achieved at 26 years' distance." In his opening statement,

Lord Saville said he that and his



Lord Savifle: Seeking truth

Sir Edward Somers and Mr Justice William Hoyt, a Canadian, would perform their duty with fairness, thoroughness and impartiality.

quiry or indicated what couclu-

Mindful perhaps of accusations that in 1972 the then Conservative government had heavily influenced the course of the Widgery inquiry, he said: "I should make it clear that in no shape, manner or form has the Government sought ... to suggest how we should conduct the insions it would like us to reach."

Lord Saville said the tribunal had decided not to ask the Attorney-General to grant blan-

look again at this question during their proceedings, when it should emerge whether the granting of immunity in some cases might be necessary.

He added that the object was to "try and find out what happened on Bloody Sunday" and that immunity could be considered in certain cases if it brought the inquiry closer to the thich.

The Law Lord said it would be foolish to ignore allegations that some of those concerned in the events of Bloody Sunday were guilty of very serious offences, including murder, adding: "Whether there is substance in those allegations re-

mains of course to be seen." Following the formal opening of the tribunal, the three jurists visited the scene of the killings, not far from the Guildhall. It is believed the inquiry will start taking formal statements in the autumn, followed by hear-

ings which could last 12 months. Later, Sinn Fein chairman Mitchell McLaughlin said the relatives and others wanted to know how committed the Govconnent was to bringing out the entire truth. He added: "I think the silence with which the opening statement by the tribunal chairman was met is very significant. Basically, people were ket immunity from prosecution burnt once and they are not two colleagues, New Zealander to witnesses. He said it would going to be burnt again."

Belfast peacelines return to keep warring factions apart

IN an ironic counterpoint to the truthful I view it with a great present efforts to reach political agreement, the authorities in part of north Belfast have had to admit defeat and have begun building a new wall to keep warring factions apart, writes David McKittrick.

It will be the latest of around 30 "peacelines", a term which is itself ironic in that each structure amounts to an admission that community relations in an area have hit rock bottom.

"It's the story of north Belfast and the changing demographics," a veteran councillor said sadly. "The new wall is going up in what used to be a Protestant area, but it's now a little Orange blob in a sea which is becoming increasingly green."

The new peaceline will be 200m long and in places be 6m high. It is to be crected in the White City area following continuing disturbances in the area, the RUC recording almost 300 separate sectarian incidents since January 1997.

The effect of these were described by Margaret Craig of Gunnell Hill who, after living in the area for 26 years, has found the last two years a nightmare. Of the wall she said: "To be

peace to live this summer, and have to go through what we went through last year - coustant attacks on the back of my

"When the trouble was bad I actually had to be taken out of my house to stay with relatives, and come back the next morning to see what the dam-

Ferry-port car bomb charge

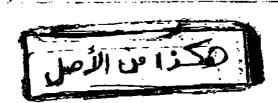
A MAN was yesterday charged with possession of a 1.000lb car bomb. intercepted by an armed garda unit at Dun Laoghaire ferry-port in Ireland on Thursday morning Larry Keane, 41, an

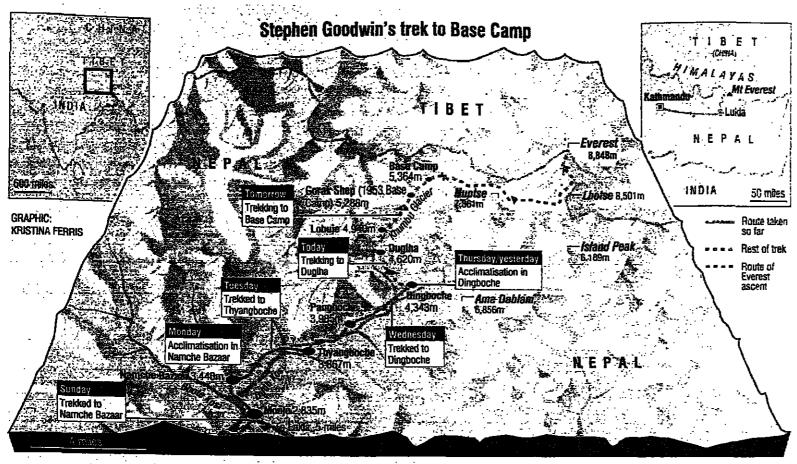
unemployed man from Clones near Athy, County Kildare, was charged at **Dublin's Special Criminal** Court with possession of the bomb which contained 980th of home-made

"It's a very sad thing but it's sense of relief. I will possibly get a fact of life. When everyone else was supposed to be enjoy-I and my neighbours won't ing peace I was being terrorised. No one wants a high fence in the back of their garden, but if it's the only way that you're going to live in your home and not be frightened, then it is something

that is going to have to happen." Although such peacelines were once viewed as temporary expedients, they have invariably turned out to be permanent structures. North Belfast was once mainly Protestant but is now predominantly Catholic, and it is the spreading out of the Catholic community which has triggered off many of the territorial disputes. .

The building of the walls has taken place with the blessing of both communities, but Protestants have often been more in favour of them, hoping they will serve as barriers against what often view as a menacing Catholic advance. But although they have sometimes provided temporary relief from stonethrowing, they have not stemmed the steady flow of Protestant familles from the area, and they have not reconciled the two communities to living in close proximity.





WHAT MAKES someone so set on climbing Everest that they are prepared to spend £25,000 and risk their life for a goal that has already been achieved by more than 700 others?

The Roman Actions Story's feather than Driving

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return to

ons apart

Byron Smith and Rob Owen, two of my companions on the Himalayan Kingdoms Everest expedition, have no time for the cynics who say that paying to climb the mountain by the popular South Col route is "dog on a leash" stuff where guides and Sherpas do the hard work.

"It's still my legs and lungs that will get me up there," says Byron in his rich Canadian accent.

"It's just jealousy when people talk about it being a long yak route. They're just trying to belittle you to make themselves feel better."

goal some time ago and are set rugby league-style win bonus. If on seeing it through.

dream assignment, getting to will get an extra 20 per cent. the summit of the world would make me pretty chuffed, but it strated the kind of gritty deis the whole mountaineering ex- termination he will need later top of Everest, Byron will be perience that matters.

this attitude somewhat negative. When I asked the pair if they have thought of climbing other lesser peaks in the Himalayas for starters, the answer was an emphatic no. "To me, Everest is the ultimate symbol of challenge," says Byron.

of the team, and one which 6,198 metres, the highest peak



Everest Diary

Dingboche

probably distinguishes the feepaving clients on this type of groups of climbers who come out here each year to climb as often more technically demanding peaks.

Rob Owen is a 32-year-old London stockbroker covering eastern Europe for ABN-Amro. Byron and Rob, like me, are £15,000 to the Big Orange Bus on their first trip to the Hi- charity, helping orphans in eastmalayas. Unlike me, they had em Europe, but as a skilled opboth made Everest a personal erator, Rob has negotiated a he gets to the top and waves For me, the expedition is a ABN-Amro's flag, the charity

Rob has already demon-Byron would probably find laid low by a gut infection. All offers to take some of his rucknow he seems back to his stocky powerhouse self.

An adventurer rather than a mountaineer. Rob has been on three expeditions in the Arctic, hanling sledges for up to 14. It is the same explanation I hours a day, and two years ago have heard from other members he climbed Mount Mckinley, at

in North America. "The Arctic Lisa last July and is hoping our and you have to accept that." is an awesome experience but summit bid could come early so there is nothing more physically that he can make a speedy redemanding and nerve-racking than Everest," he says.

turn home.

If Rob sounds a driven man, just listen to Byron Smith, the 37-year-old owner of a Ford franchise in Vulcan, Alberta, 10 weeks on the mountain and someone who "doesn't be- and then it's not our time, lieve in the word can't".

A fitness fanatic, Byron ulges muscles in all directions, though he had to be advised that expedition from the many his brief running shorts might offend Sherpa sensitivities.

He has climbed 50 summits friends on less prestigious but in the Rockies in the last six months and had originally thought of organising his own expedition to make him the 11th Canadian to the top.

He bought into the Hi-The company will donate malayan Kingdoms Expedition purely for logistical reasons and admits he is not a natural team player.

When I wonder if that is not at odds with his success as an ice-hockey player, he sees no contradiction. "I was always the star. The team was built around me." If hubris can get you to the

on in the way he refused to be there. But in a piece of frank talking that could indicate friction when the tension mounts, sack load were declined and he adds: "I won't let anyone get me off my game plan."

Both Byron and Rob are married. The Canadian says his wife Jamie understands how important Everest is to him but he is thankful his eight-year-old son Zachary doesn't appreciate the risk.

The stockbroker married



Whatever happens, he says it is going to be his last big shot. Then I'm going to be a fami-Rob's biggest fear is not the ly man, throw away the crampons and pick up the diapers." altitude or avalanches, but of not getting a chance at the Perhaps that is one more summit - "the fear of spending distinction between the Everest challenger and the climb-

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



Mother admits taking baby from hospital

A WOMAN yesterday admitted snatching a three-hour-old baby from a hospital maternity unit.

A judge at Basildon Crown Court was told that a psychiatric report on Denise Giddings, from Basildon in Essex, said she had been "extremely disturbed psychologically" when she took Karli Hawthorne from Basildon Hospital last December.

Judge Philip Clegg adjourned the case until 17 April. for probation reports to be prepared. After the hearing Detective Superintendent David Bright said that Giddings's guilty plea had eased the pressure on both her own family and Karli's parents.

Giddings looked close to tears as she heard the judge grant her bail, but warned that it was no guarantee that he would not enforce a custodial

After the hearing, Det Supt Bright said: "The guilty plea made by Mrs Giddings today reflects on the first-class investigation in which police received excellent support from the public and not least of all the media. We would not have been able to catch Mrs Giddings so quickly without the assistance of the media.

"And the speed with which Mrs Giddings was arrested brought about the safe return of Karli - because my fear, my very real fear, was for the safety of that young child.

"But with all those facts aside, today takes some of the pressure off Karli's parents and ing in an upstairs room.



Safe and well: Karli back in the arms of her mother Tanya

family members and also the Giddingses, to enable all parties

to get their lives back together." Karli was snatched from her hospital bed on 5 December. Her parents Tanya and Karl had to endure a 14-hour wait as police mounted a nation-wide search for the 6lb 15oz infant:

Their nightmare ended when one of Giddings's neighbours called police to say she suspected the mother-of-three. On 6 December, police raid-

ed her Basildon home and found Karli safe and well sleep-

Yesterday Barry Spanjar, one of Giddings's defence team, said she still denied knowing the reasons for the abduction. Claims that she carried out the abduction in an attempt for a reconciliation with her estranged

husband, Leslie, were false. Mr Spanjar also denied that Giddings, whose children were all boys, had grabbed Karli because she was desperate for a baby giri.

"It could just as easily have been a boy ... She took the nearest baby. That baby could have been anyone's," he said.

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

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A-levels survive axe in shake-up of sixth-forms

Education Correspondent

RADICAL proposals to reform A-levels were shelved yesterday as the Government announced plans to broaden sixth form education.

New AS-levels, representing half an A-level, will be introduced from 2000, along with reforms to bring General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) into line with academic exams, the education minister, Baroness Blackstone, announced.

A new "key skills" qualification designed to improve sixth-formers' abilities in literacy, maths, communications and computer skills will also be tested. If successful, courses could go nation-wide from September next year.

But ministers shelved plans for a new advanced certificate for sixth-formers to eacompass both academic and vocational studies. They also put back proposals for a mix and match system of qualifications based on building up credits from a range of courses.

The Qualifications and Cur-

been asked to carry out further in not breaking down the vowere also announced to safe-. guard A-level standards by limiting the number of resits allowed on controversial modular A-level courses.

Lady Blackstone said the changes would "play an important part in improving choice and raising standards for sixthformers, while helping to it will cost money." achieve our goals of a welleducated, well-equipped workforce, with a strong commitment to lifelong learning."

But head teachers said the announcement represented a wasted opportunity.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "If a goverument with a thumping majority cannot support the much-needed radical solution to post-16 qualifications, then it never will. The Government clearly understands that the narrowness of the current sixth-form curriculum is a fundamental problem, but refuses to produce the appropriate solution."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads riculum Authority, the Gov- Association, added: "This is a ernment's exams watchdog, has tremendous lost opportunity of study at advanced level."

work on both ideas. Changes cational academic divide which has bedevilled the English education system for generations."

Judith Norrington, of the Association of Colleges, which teach the majority of sixth-formers, warned: "If the Government is serious about wanting a broad-based curriculum including more subjects and key skills

Yesterday's announcement follows a lengthy battle over whether to move towards a French-style baccalaureate for sixth-formers, which includes a range of subjects. Ministers are thought to have been concerned about accusations that such a move would have watered down the A-level "gold standard".
But Lady Blackstone said

she hoped the changes would encourage sixth-formers to broaden the traditional three Alevel course by taking one-year AS-levels as well. She added: "The current system has been criticised for many years for being over-specialised and inflexible. Compared with our international competitors young people in England tend to follow a very narrow programme

Novel monarch turns a page in history



Enthroned: Richard Booth, the self-styled King of Hay, who raps out slogans including 'Abolish the Wales tourist board'

Photograph: Rob Stratton

Teachers fail computer test

FEWER than one in five teach- teachers to make the most of in- 7,000 teachers that fewer than ers are sufficiently familiar with computers to make full use of them in schools, according to a

technology colleges - some of the best equipped schools in the Government's task in "wiring up" British education. The Prime Minister has

school will be connected to the Internet and equipped to exploit the information revolution.

But the biggest task by far, the survey shows, will be to train formation and communications technology.

From September, for the first time, all initial teacher The study among staff in training will be required to cover information technology. Some £230m from the Nationcountry - shows the scale of the al Lottery fund will be spent majority of teachers baffled over the next three years training existing teachers.

And in the coming year pledged that by 2002 every £100m will develop the National Grid for Learning, including computer programmes and back-up material for schools.

The Technology Colleges Trust found in a survey of nearly not include IT

one in five had "sufficient confidence and competence in the use of IT applications to enable them to apply and practise them or to develop IT capability in pupils".

Aspects of IT which left the included the use of the Internet, e-mails, CD-Roms, computer graphics and desk top publishing.

Commenting on the survey. Eve Gillmon-TCT's development director, said that there' are approximately 450,000 serving teachers where training did

DRESSED in a bespoke white A suckling pig is roasting as eccentrics gather to toast the black stick, Richard Booth, the king of second-hand books. Tony Heath raises a glass

brought back from the dead by

yesterday preparing for a significant promotion in the world Hay after its Unilateral Decof fantasy monarchs and rulers. Tonight he will be recrowned laration of Independence. Mr as "Emperor of all the world's Davies, a chef at a local hotel, is 21 tomorrow.

second-hand book towns". The weekend is being giv-There are more than 50 such bibliophiles' delights scattered en over to celebrations that across the world, from the Unitthreaten to snarl up Hay's narrow streets. Jugglers, stilt walked States to East Germany. But Hay-on-Wye in Mid ers, buskers and mimers were Wales is the undisputed founyesterday beginning to arrive. tainhead. On 1 April 1977 Mr The main procession will be headed by an "ambling band" Booth, now 60, declared the lit-

suit and wielding a knobbly

self-styled "King of Hay" was

tie town an independent king-

dom and was duly enthroned and for £1.50 people can take with crown; scentre and orb. Today's ceremony will be A spit-roast suckling pig is performed by Stephen Davies, on the menu at a £15-a-head

the first person to be born in crowning dinner in Hay Castle, Mr Booth's impressive home overlooking a town largely

his quixotic energy and shrewd business sense. "Hay has more than 30 bookshops and millions of volumes. Books are too important to be left to academics and for every book in a library there are a hundred in bookshops," he said. He criticises universities, rather than a "marching band", saying that manual labour is more important - "physical part in an egg-and-spoon race. work has seen more books coming into Hay than in all of

Dismissive of official efforts to revive the rural economy, which is under threat in places other than mid-Wales, the soon-to-be emperor raps out slogans: "Abolish the Wales tourist board", and "God save us from the Development Board for Rural Wales [the quango charged with develop-

ing Mid-Wales]". The King-Emperor is, needless to say, a genuine eccentric. grounds, this year's festival rates Pointing to his magning white throws until 38 may his shots and fingering his crown seems appearance of the he said. I bought these in Calcar ranging from Lord Calcarding if the land with Land appearing a and Adam Clark MP to Simplican p there a Fry Man Andhony Chi

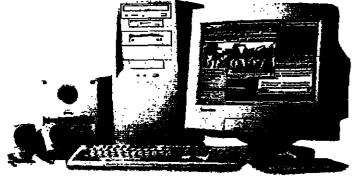
few weeks ago." Hay is his home, but the world is his

(second-hand-books) oyster. ·As well as claiming the palm as the world's largest second-hand books town, Hayon-Wye stages an annual literature festival that attracts thousands. Mr Booth once described it as a gathering of literary groupies. And when the literati flood into the town, tills ring in local restaurants and pubs and cheques are frantically written for signed copies of newly published works.

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Rise and fall of the maestro of the macabre

IT WAS a chance remark by an eager PR woman that led me to meet Anthony-Noel Kelly and discover his macabre art. Jibby Bean came into the office of the Independent on Sunday to talk to us about the London contemporary Arts Pair, and let drop, casually, that one of the exhibitors was sculpting parts of the human body using limbs and left, the editor, Rosie Boycott, comes with conviction. These another with some incredulity. We rang up Kelly, asked to vis-

it, and off I went Few people I have met as a journalist have made such an hibit at the fair, to let the PR dio. I rang the bell: he said his impact on me as Kelly did that day. He was in a studio in Clapham, surrounded by tanks, dripping taps, developed photographs of naked people hanging up to dry, and silver figures of humans, lovingly cast from moulds made from actual remains. There were heads of old men, the side of another, looking more like a ham in a butch-someone had tipped them off. er's display than part of person. I still had some body pieces I hands cut at the wrist.

It was January 1997. Outside, it was hovering at freezing Kelly, with his unkempt hair, cadaverous, high-cheekboned face, and intense gaze, fascinated me. It is rare to meet anyone so committed, so strong in their self-belief. He asserted his them for his own artistic purposes. It took an effort to remember he had no right to take grisly details of his corpses, these parts. What might relatives of the dead feel about his covert theft, his taking of human remains from a medical college which had pledged to respect them? He seemed genuinely

"I bave no qualms about doing this work. I would not wish to hurt anyone," he said. What lice. The result was yesterday's was apparent, though, was that - criminal conviction. Since my

Catherine Pepinster recalls the rise to infamy of Anthony

Kelly, an artist with a cadaverous touch

as his own artistic endeavour.

fact that he had agreed to exmention it to us, and allow me, with a photographer, come into and witness his trade in the dead. The way he spoke of what he did betrayed his delight in dicing with danger too: To get them was a sweat, under covthe police on me once because hadn't yet used and I had to destroy them."

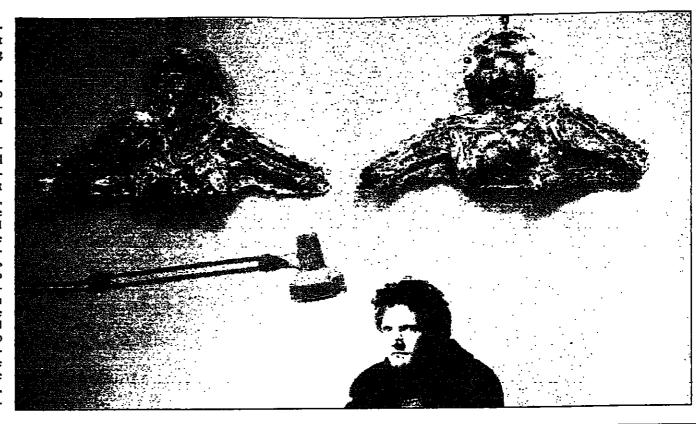
Then, as we moved upstairs point; inside, the studio was icy. to his living-room to chat over coffee, surrounded by golden horses' legs, hanging from hooks as meat in an abattoir where Kelly learned his craft of butchery, he dropped a little gem. He explained that as well absolute right to do what he did as his own art, he was a tutor at - take pieces of corpses and use the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture.

It was that fact, and the which drew all the other papers, especially the tabloids, to follow up my story the following week. But on the Sunday morning, what did for Kelly was a particular reader of the Independent concerned about their feelings. on Sunday - Dr Laurence Martin, Her Majesty's Inspector of Anatomy, who alerted the po-

first visit to Kelly's studio, people have asked me: "Didn't it give you the creeps, visiting that man?" No, it didn't.

I didn't believe for one moment that I would be sliced into bits. Yes, here was a man obsessed with death, but at least he faced it.

"You look at them and remind yourself, this is how we all sections of corpses. After she he had the arrogance that endup, was how he put it. Today, our sanitised world tries not other staff and I looked at one people did not matter as much to think about the end of life, and the experience of dying. He But there was something did. After he was arrested, I reckless about Kelly too. The went to see him again. There were journalists outside his stusolicitor had told him not to speak to anyone. When I exstudio for two and a half hours, plained that I had brought him some lilies, he came to the door, said "Hello darling." and invited me in. There seemed to be no hard feelings: I got my follow-up story. When I left, the er of darkness," he said, "I had pack of reporters pursued me down the street. I got a glimpse, then, of what I had unleashed.



Body of work: Kelly in his studio with part of his controversial oeuvre, cast from actual human remains filched from a medical college

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Casts in Kelly's studio of body remnants

Wren's lover says no-touch rule unbroken

THE LOVER of the senior fence team in Whitehall, La Col Wren at the centre of a military sex scandal yesterday denied breaking the "no-touching rule" while they both served on the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious.

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January 2011

METERIA

Lieutenant Nigel McTear admitted having sex with Lieutenant Commander Karen Pearce in a hired car during shore leave in Malta in February, 1996. But he denied taking her back to her cabin after a party with up to 70 people on board the ship:

During the court martial of Le Cdr Pearce's former lover and boss, Lieutenant Colonel Keith Pople, Li McTear confirmed that the men's showers were close to his lover's cabin and it would have been possible for men to visit her early in the morning or late at night.

And during cross examination by Rhyddian Willis, for the defence, he said that her cabin could have been set out with cushions and bedding on the flour so two people could have sex. But he added: "There is a

no touching rule on ship." - Li Coi Pople is accused of having a three-year affair with Li Cdr Pearce while he was her superior at a key Ministry of De-

Pople, 42, is also accused of bombarding her with threatening phone calls and letters after their break-up in June, 1996. He denies two charges of

scandalous conduct and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

If found guilty at the court martial in Aldershot, Hampshires, he would be dismissed from the Army after a 20-year

The hearing was told yesterday that Lt McTear moved in with the Wren in October 1996 after her affair with Lt Col Pople had broken up. But he moved back with his

second wife over Christmas and only decided to move back again with Li Cdr Pearce, 34, after he left Britain on Illustrious in the January. He continued to contact Lt Cdr Pearce and kept the relationship secret from his wife.

When Illustrious returned to Portsmouth he moved in with his lover and told his wife over the phone about the end of their marriage. Ms Willis said: "She had been in the dark about what you were doing?" Lt

McTear said: "Yes". The hearing continues.



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Risky visit: Could high insurance premiums stop Tony and Cherie Blair calling on constituents?

Photograph: Richard Rayner/North News and Pictures

Famous friends push up price of insurance

TONY BLAIR would like you to think he's the kind of guy who would drop in for a cup of tea, but you would be well advised to turn him away if one day he appears on your doorstep.

An insurance company has refused to insure people who have any contact with the famous because, they claim, the risks are too great.

Direct Line, one of the biggest and fastest growing companies in the country, refused insurance to Peter Kellner, the said, it was possible that Tony Blair might visit his house and have an accident.

Adrian Webb, the company's spokesman, said they asked everyone their occupation and the question of whether Mr

"Suppose Tony Blair did come to your house, tripped over a piece of loose stair carpeting and ended up in hospital. We would be liable. The risk is too great," he said.

"Everyone's policy is calculated on the basis of risk, and certain occupations have a higher risk if the person is exposed to situations where they may expect to have a public figure in their home.

He added: "We do not cover theatrical agents, although that would apply more to car inwant to know if they gave lifts to famous people as there is always the risk of an accident."

Alan Saunders, spokesman for Creation Records, said people working in the music industry also tended to have very high insurance premiums.

your occupation the price rockets," he said. "You might be transporting famous people in your car and their lives are worth a lot of money so the insurance costs a lot more.

'Insurance companies also tend to assume that you're a drug crazed alcoholic if you work in the music industry, which tends to push the cost up as well."

suring celebrities and never asked if the client knew anyone

one down just because they knew someone famous who might visit," said Ben Connor.

You would be covered

down the stairs or the postman "We have a lot of famous cople on our books and they probably entertain other fa-

valuable for instance." tive of the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association, said he had never heard the fame question before.

"More companies are asking 'lifestyle' questions about how many televisions people own and whether they smoke, but asking about their friends is quite unique.

"What they are saying is that it will cost more to reimburse someone who is injured in your house if it is someone famous or all you friends how much money they have before you let But Guardian Direct said them cross the doorstep?

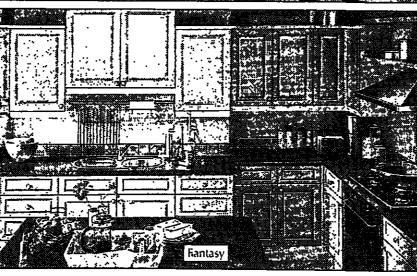
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BA's rivals match cut-price flights

THE low-price airline war intensified yesterday with rivals to British Airways' newly launched discount flight company, Go, cutting their fares.

Earlier this week. Go announced that it will be offering £100 return fares when its Stansted to Rome. Milan and Copenhagen services start later in the spring. -

Yesterday, KLM said that it was bringing its Stansted to Milan return air fare down from £104 to £100 to match Go's

KLM is also reducing its one-way Stansted-Milan fare from £79 to £50. In addition, another "no-frills" carrier -Debonair - said that it was introducing £99 return fares on its Luton to Rome service until 9 June: After that, and until October, the lowest Debonair return

fare on the route will be £109 - a £10 reduction on the pre-April price. The airline also intends to introduce a second daily service to Rome from the end of this month to match the Go frequency. Go's Rome services start on 22-May, with Milan flights

beginning on 23 May and Copenhagen starting on 5 June. There are two weekday flights a day to each destination, using 148-seater Boeing 737s. Meanwhile, Air France has increased its Heathrow to Paris weekday frequency from 11 to 14 flights and has added an

extra, fourth, daily flight on the Manchester to Paris service.



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The benefits of buying to let

Demand is growing for good rental property and there is money to be made, writes Ginetta Vedrickas

At the risk of being banned from Butlins, can you spot a connection between Margaret Thatcher and the mother-in-

Malcolm Harrison, spokesperson for the Association of Residential Lettings Agents (ARLA) thinks he can. He links the Iron Lady and the gradual demise of old-style comedians' favourite person to his industry's current success.

"Margaret Thatcher pushed many into buying who otherwise may not have," Mr Harrison says. "Couples tend not to marry these days, there's not that pressure from the mother-in-law, so they rent rather than buy."

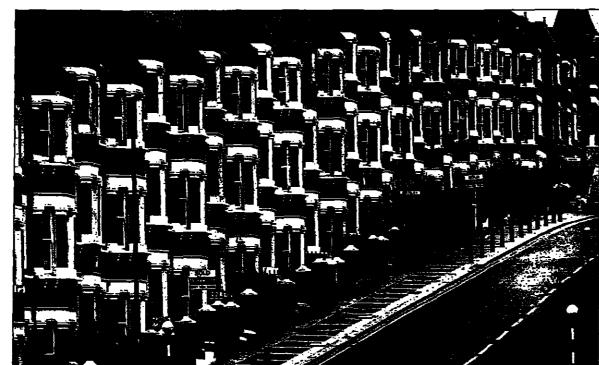
Is renting preferable to buying? And why are investors buying to let? The London lettings scene is complex and ket encapsulating corporate and private

Private rentals in the UK run at around 11 per cent compared to France lowances are going up." or Germany's 40 per cent. Rates are rising and pre-Budget jitters now seem like essary angst.

One agent confided: "We've been praying and waiting to see if that nice Mr Brown was going to hammer us. We're breathing sighs of relief as he's been pretty neutral about lettings and there are minor advantages in the small print." Buying British is obviously endemic but are things changing?

Many agents believe that buyers property. now delay until their mid-30s because of an increasing need for mobility. "Couples are too busy working these days, frequently on short contracts, so they rent for flexibility. They don't want the hassle of coming home and finding the drains blocked, they leave that to the landlord," says Malcolm Harrison, who sites divorce and separation rates as additional influences.

Susan Fitz-Gibbon, owner of Fitz-Gibbon Residential, has clients in all sectors of the market. Covering west London from Kensington out to Hamoton, Susan credits the big boys for an expanding market: "The corporates are coming out of the woodwork and they fifties," says Malcolm Harrison: "He's got will pay up to £1,200 per week for good-



it's hard to have an overview of a mar- Houses galore: but it's still easier to find somewhere to buy than a quality place to rent

new people and previously slashed al-

Susan has six clients chasing each property and many are let the same day. Investors are keen to buy in an area that is cheaper than prime London heartland and yields a greater return, so the suburbs are popular. "We aim for at least 10 per cent," says Susan: "But there's a huge need for more people to let."

Landlords who bought at peak prices sold once the market revived, leaving a paucity of middle market rentable

ARLA and seven members in the Council for Mortgage lenders launched the "Buy to Let" scheme 18 months ago to boost rentals. With investors able to borrow at 6.99 per cent fixed for three years, the scheme has helped to bring good quality properties onto the market. Andrew Reeves, a Bromley lettings agent, says: "You won't find granny's cast-off squirly carpets in these flats. They are aimed at thirties professionals in sound employment who are happy to rent providing standards are good."

But is the new investor a Rachman wannabe? "We've finally killed him off. Your average landlord is in his forties or his PEPs and his Tessas, Aunt Agatha dies

an investment he can walk past, he does- lems so far? "My only regret is not don't want to put it in Nick Leeson's pocket and have it floating off to Tokyo."

stereotype. She does have the maximum amount of Tessas and PEPs and chose the buy to let scheme to give her portfolio a "broader base of investment". Jo found that she would get the best return on a one-bedroom flat in west London, a popular area for rentals. Was the er than I thought. Agents were hopeless process complex? "I can't believe how easy it's been. I got a buy-to-let mortgage over the phone, handed over to the lettings agents and within two weeks a South African professional moved in cil properties and were very dodgy." straight from his hotel."

she is looking for a second property for Morgan, the Institute of Psychiatry's acherself and another for a friend overseas. Has she any tips? "Find a flat that needs minimal upkeep and decorate it in neutral colours. Mine looks incredibly fresh and if there's a choice of properties you know that yours will rent first."

Angela Folan, another investor through the scheme, agrees. Her two atives can sleep on the sofa." Bromley flats with monthly rentals of £475 and £550 currently bring returns of Buy to Let hotline: 01923 896555, Mon-10 and 12 per cent. Angela is happy for day-Friday 9am-5.30pm; Fitz-Gibbon agents to manage her flats and hopes to Residential, 0181 892 8921; Andrew take over when her children are bigger Reeves, 0181 464 8566.

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President, he was a cowboy.

sized family homes. They're bringing in and he's got a bit of surplus. He wants so that "it will be like a job". Any probing it sooner. Years ago my bank manager pooh-poohed the idea of a Jo Kitson, 31, doesn't quite fit the housewife doing such a thing, but this time it was so easy.'

> Brendan Binnerman, a psychiatrist, wili be working in Camberwell, London for two years and is renting a one-bed flat nearby for £500 a month. Was it easy to find somewhere? "It was much hardand didn't marry up the right sorts of properties with tenants. I was turned down because I smoke and was shocked to find some flats turned out to be com-Are couples impulsive about the

Jo's return is around 12 per cent and sort of property they rent? Nadine commodation officer, helps visitors find short-let rentals and frequently sees aspirations shift downwards: "Visitors come for six months and hope that relatives will visit. Initially they want a twobed but when they discover the cost they swiftly change to a one-bed and say rel-

Investing in property? Look for a spot in demand

Although rental incomes have not risen in line with sales values, there is still money to be made, writes Mary Wilson

Investing in property is a capital idea, providing you buy wisely in a good location. Although rental yields - the annual rental as a percentage of a home's value - have not risen in line with sales values over the past 18 months, they still represent a good return compared with money in the bank.

In general, yields are currently around 7 or 8 per cent gross, but there are pockets all around the country where higher returns are achievable. And although yields might be down compared with two years ago, the value of your property will have risen significantly.

The secret is to buy a property for which there is a huge demand. This might be one- or twobedroom flats in London, a five-bedroom house in Surrey or a three-bedroom terraced house in the North-west. Good prospects should be had in a city where there is a continual turnover of employees, all looking to rent while they are on short-term contracts; somewhere with a university or college or an up and coming area, where purchase prices are low enough to produce a high percentage return.

In London, the traditional investment areas -Knightsbridge, Kensington, Chelsea, Mayfair - will produce a steady, but at the most an 8 per cent, return on your money. "It is difficult now to get double figures in London, but there are little pockets such as the Docklands and the City where it is still possible," says Jonathan Vandermolen of Blenheim Bishop. "Small apartments with one or two bedrooms will produce the best results, especially good one-bedders".

He is selling a new development in Warren Street, W1, which should produce a higher than usual rental return. "It is not in a prime residential area, so capital outlay is lower, but it is close enough to Oxford Circus to achieve 10 per cent," he says.

There is also a shortage of genuine loft space (former industrial properties with large open spaces) in London available for rent. "Gross rvestment yields on this type of property in City fringe areas such as Clerkenwell and Shoreditch are often in excess of 12 per cent," says Clive Martin, residential lettings manager with Stir-

City suburbs that are well located should produce satisfactory returns and sometimes a good quality, newly built development in an area that is easily accessible to London and the airport will see higher than usual rental returns. But remember when agents quote possible yields to take account not only of all charges and exmake a considerable dent in your income.

At Wentworth Gate, a Barratt development of apartments, town houses and large detached houses in Ascot, Surrey, some properties are set to achieve up to 12 per cent returns. "Homes in certain parts of Surrey which are near to the American schools are achieving very good premiums because of the high demand and lack of supply," says Lynne Mayell of Knight Frank, which is letting some of the properties.

"People who have bought early in the development will do best. Although returns might be a bit lower to start with because of the building, once that has finished the rents will go up" she says.

The good news for all those people who do not live south of Watford is that areas in the north are hot spots, too. According to a recent survey conducted by Mortgage Express, the North-west is currently the best place in the buyto-let property market.

These areas are popular because of the rental incomes that can be achieved," says Tim Dawson, deputy managing director. "The North-west leads the field because it has the added attraction that the investment required to buy properties is lower than many other regions across the UK."

The survey shows that the most popular operty to buy for investment in general across the UK is a two- or three-bedroom terraced house. Two- or three-bedroom post-1960 terraced houses come second, followed closely by flats and maisonettes.

"There is a lot of investment around Manchester," says Paul Heath of broker Langmore James Association. "Three-to five-bedroom terraced properties are all showing net returns of around 10 per cent. In Warrington, it is the twoup two-downs which are showing the highest. Hamptons has been monitoring rental properties around the county and the top spots are the Cotswolds, where a two-bedroom cottage in 1997 produced a gross yield of 6.75 per cent (with a 10 per cent increase in capital value): Beaconsfield where four-bedroom houses achieved over 10 per cent and Amersham, where a two-bedroom house achieved an 8 per cent

"These good returns are largely led by the number of applicants in the area," says Annabel Barnes, director of country lettings. "Certain parts of Surrey and Berkshire are particularly popular with relocating employees, mostly Americans, who all want the right house on the right bus route near the right school. There ispenses, but also possible void periods, which n't enough to go round, so they will pay big pre-

Safe as houses – if you've a good builder

A trusty handyman can be the first line of defence against looming problems, writes

Robert Liebman

Through wonky windows, builders reveal their mettle. After 20 years of neglect, a

four-bedroom semi-detached house in south-west London was being thoroughly overhauled for new owners. Workers were fixing floors and renewing walls when builder Terry Gauntlet, replacing a rotten first-floor window, saw that a fungus was among them.

Dry rot is a mushroom-like infestation which, if left untreated, could develop into a serious, and seriously expensive, problem. Mr Gauntlet informed the owner, who immediately hired specialists. The infestation was localised, and the extra expense and mess were barely noticeable. In Ealing, meanwhile, the

surveyor for first-time buyers Loretta and Neill said that their windows needed replacing. Their handyman, Peter Daines, suggested a second opinion, namely, his own. "He examined the windows in the neighbouring houses, saw that they were original and told us ours could he fixed too," says Loretta. 'He saved us hundreds of runds, and now we are doing er work in the house which

"eviously couldn't afford." ssrs Gauntlet and Daines ong the legions of genbuilders and handymen om legions of homeownly. They belong to no trade iations, but neither are cowboys. Mr Gauntlet is ing about certain trade ciations whose member-, qualifications consist in hing more than paying a fee. Cowhovs conceal their dodgy pasts and knock on strangers' doors. Legitimate

dations and are often too busy shake things - radiators, counto serve new clients.

"We found Mr Daines through a friend of my mother," says Loretta, who notes that he lem." Simple visual inspection was recommended for being is also informative. "If somehelpful as well as skilful. When thing is old, its time may have the couple restored their fireplaces, Mr Daines brought them tiles from the large collection of timber, doors and other discards that he has squirreled away over the years. "The tiles were old and old-fashioned, which was perfect for our living room. We never would have found such attractive and inexpensive tiles on our own."

She credits him, too, for his solution for their bowed interior wall. Instead of rebuilding the rail to attract the eye. It's a visual distraction which hides the

Cosmetic work is not always innocent or advisable. Mr Daines says that he often has to undo earlier work done on the cheap, "especially work done in the wrong sequence. Many people can't afford full refurbishment, so they do the cosmetic work first, then when the building work is done, it ruins the cos-

Some builders excel as skive artists: "One homeowner hired me to fix a leak but I could not find the hot and cold valves. Finally I found them under some tiles. Obviously, a handyman had loosened the holding nuts on the valves and crisscrossed them over one another to lie flatter and closer to the wall. He wasn't doing plumbing. He was tiling, and when he found obstacles, he simply tiled over

Most British properties are old and, Mr Daines stresses, have had a succession of builders as well as owners. Some of these handymen have covered rather than corrected, resulting in what he refers to as "laminated concealment".

Fortunately, symptoms usually appear before total failure. enabling owners to budget for their repair or replacement. Mr Daines favours a shake test: • Most trade associations have Street, London WCIN 3DP, 0171

tertops, banisters, windows, all sorts of things. If something is loose, there's probably a probcome. A radiator that is 20 years old is going to need replacing soon. Twenty-year-old radiators also look their age."

However, sometimes even the best jack-of-all-trades handyman doesn't suffice, whether for reasons of true specialist quality, safety or legality. Electric shock, fire or carbon monoxide poisoning are too steep a price to pay.

By law, cooker installation and other gas fittings must be wall, "he installed a picture done by a fitter registered with Corgi, the Council for Registered Gas Installers. Some electrical work is also legally required, and even simple wiring jobs require professional expertise. A major fire can start from a poorly wired ball light as easily as from a faulty fuse box. With electrical work, warns Mr Gauntlet, "all you see is a plug, you don't see the wires behind." This normally sceptical builder strongly recommends using a member of the NICEIC, the electricians' association.

For their part, owners must exercise vigilance and self-assertiveness.

 References, references, references - good, honest reliable workers leave a trail of recommendations. Ask for references; don't besitate to interview several builders and get quotes Peter Daines, 20 Boileau Road, from each.

• Advance payments? The Federation of Master Builders asserts that "advance payments, particularly at the start of a job, should be avoided." Mr Gauntlet asserts, "don't pay until the Park, Crockford Lane, Baswork is done. People volunteer to pay me all or part in advance, thousands of pounds. Many people want to part with their money. I say, 'No, pay me at the end or as the work is done." Pay as you go, pay as it has

"Things should fit solidly. I genuine membership qualifi- 242 7583.

been earned.



Warming tale: Loretta and Neill were saved a lot of money by their builder, who also found them old tiles for their fireplaces Photograph: Philip Meech

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How attention was channelled on TV newsreaders' open secret



bling out of cupboards over France. Mazarine, the late President Mitterrand's long-secret daughter, published her first novel yesterday, and the week also saw the media debut of the tiny son of two television newsreaders. who are not married to each

The fact they had a child together is widely known but never mentioned in the French press, fearful of the country's often-flouted privacy law. This week, Paris Match published charming pictures of the little boy, aged two, with the permission of his mother, the unmarried Claire Chazal, 41, who reads the TFI news on Saturday

There was no mention in the ried, litigious Patrick Poivre most familiar faces in France. d'Arvor, 50, who reads the news on TFI from Monday to Friday. Substantial hypocrisy is involved here: the TF1 news often infringes the spirit, if not





the letter, of French privacy law. The station gave regular, intrusive bulletins on the fateful friendship between Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi. Fayed last summer. The unstated joke for Paris Match readers was that François Chazal is the spitting image of his article that his father is the mar- presumed father, one of the

loaned by a Russian museum to of armoured glass, installed in to a depth of 20 miles or more."

outer suburbs of Paris. But the room. Shortly before his Auberge Ravoux at Auverssur-Oise is no ordinary café. It is the place where Vincent Van Gogh died in July 1890.

funds to the condition in which Van Gogh knew it. down to the zinc bar and 19thcentury menu.

The Pushkin Museum's decision to loan him the canvas - Paysage d'Auvers après la Pluie - "brings off a great gamble", Mr Janssens says.

The painting, estimated to be worth £35m, is one of 70 dashed off by Van Gogh while died there, Auvers-sur-Oise he lived at the inn in the two was in deep countryside. It is months before he died.

a small café-restaurant in the Van Gogh's old attic beddeath, in this room, Vincent Van Gogh told his brother and benefactor Theo (both the brothers are buried in Auvers-Its owner, Dominique- sur-Oise) that his dearest wish Charles Janssens - a Van was to have his paintings ex-Gogh lover and self-described hibited in a cafe. Mr Janssens "crazy Belgian" - bought the says the arrival of the canvas building seven years ago. He from Moscow - no date is yet has restored it without public fixed - will "realise that

"This is not going to be a museum but a living memorial," says Mr Janssens, "a con-vivial place, which will perpeniate the tradition of the artists' café."

What has barely survived, however, is the De-de-France landscape painted by Van Gogh. At the time he lived and now a pretty casis in the tan-Extraordinary security pre- gle of motorways; car showpainting by Vincent Van cautions will have to be taken. rooms, shopping malls, Gogh, not exhibited The picture will be housed in bungalows and tower blocks Asince 1906, is to be what amounts to a safe made which encase the city of Paris



Claire Chazal: Mother's pride Photographs: Rex Feature

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() DETR Going for Green Hame (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)_

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Jewish fury over sale of Nazi camp uniforms

LEGAL experts in Berlin were the authorities dismissed the combing through the statute complaints as legally unfoundbooks yesterday in an attempt - ed. A spokeswoman for Berlin's to find a pretext for banning justice ministry said all possible what promises to be the most criminal charges that could disgusting sale of the century. have been brought against the

lic prosecutor gave the go-plored including desecration of ahead for an auction of the the memory of the dead, and the strined uniforms worn by con- use of outlawed symbols. centration camp inmates before condemned by the Jewish community as "tasteless".

Jens Lau, the collector who runs a shop selling Nazi nouncing a second inquiry. The memorabilia, wants to hold auctions in Hamburg, Munich again, said Bernd Wolke, the and Berlin. The uniforms, with a reserve price of about DM300 (£100), are currently stored in the basement of his shop.

The origin of the clothing is not clear but Mr Lau has business connections with 10 museums, including Washington's Holocaust Museum. Some reports suggest that Mr Lau had obtained the controversial items from private collectors, including some in the United States.

- Jewish leaders called on the Friedman, a member of the powerless.

Central Council of Jews in

Nevertheless, on Thursday On Thursday, the city's pub- auction house had been ex-

"The prosecutors have exthey were led into the gas cham- amined every possible charge, bers. The proposed sale, or- but were unable to find an ofganised by a Berlin collector fence they could prosecute "she who has sympathies with the ex- added. "Whether the nuction is. treme right, was immediately moral or not is an entirely

different qu Yesterday, the public prosecutor's office rowed back, anmatter must be investigated city's chief public prosecutor. But he reiterated that no regulation appears to have been

infringed. Under German law, the sale or display of Nazi symbols is banned, unless the owners can prove that their actions fall within the domain of academic inquiry. There is no law specifically forbidding trade in items that had belonged to Nazi victims.

The only escape route from authorities to stop the sale, but this legal quagnife might be the so far in vain. "In what kind of civil courts. But for that, relaan age are we living, that such tives of concentration camp ina perverse, inhuman auction can mates would have to bring a law take place?" asked Michel suit. The German state itself is

Germany united on paper at last

THE WALL fell, the currencies merged, roads and railway lines were welded together, but in literature a minefield has still writers from the two sides of the Iron Curtain are about to embrace one another.

Berlin, members of the writers' association, Pen (East), yesterday voted to merge their organisation with its western alter. ego to form a united writers' association. Provided western German writers agree at their general assembly next month, an all-German association should be set up at an inaugural meeting in Goethe's Weimar at

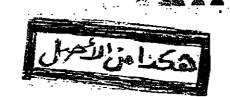
the end of the year. The wounds might take longer to heal. After 1989, members of the East German body split along the lines of opponents and advocates of the Communist regime. Literature on the dark side of the Wall had largely been

spective of talent. Free thinkers had been stifled and denounced, often by their colleagues.

Western writers demanded kept the two German nations a purge after unification; but apart, writes Imre Karacs. Now, most established Ossi authors eight years after reunification, resisted it, because they had too much to lose. Over the years. the Communist propagandists: crumbled away, but two mem-In a historic meeting in bers of Pen (East) suggested of links to the Stasi secret police

refused to budge. Faced with the press merger with an organist Pen (Vest) also ruptured: Walkout followed walk-out; parficul larly when Günter Grass-the greatest German writer alive. took the side of Stasi enforcers

Now that the Ossis have dumped the last of their spooks, unification beckons. It will be very much on the same basis as the country's political union the headquarters of Pen (West) in Darmstadt will take over a functions, though the Christvill be allowed to keep a re



edly helpful attitude towards those wishing to stay. Paul Hicks, a public-relations executive originally from

Somerset, said: "The immigration of-

ficials went out of their way to be

rushed to the Immigration Depart-

ment in the first three months of this

year, as his 12-month entry permit

was due to expire. Of this number.

12,500 had applications approved.

Only 229 were turned down or withdrawn: 3,900 are still being

processed. Another 4,000 applica-

tions to live in Hong Kong have come

from British citizens not already res-

The new regime is keen to retain

Hong Kong's international charac-

ter and has told overseas chambers

of commerce it wants foreign resi-

dents to stay. The British appear to

have taken greater advantage of

this than other foreigners. "It is still

a very good place to do business.

compared to the opportunities at

home". Mr Hicks said. British and

other foreign residents who have

lived in Hong Kong for more than

seven years are also being offered the

chance to obtain more permanent

residence status than was available

ply for the right of abode, as opposed

to the "right to land" or "right to re-

main". This gives them voting rights

and makes it more difficult to de-

under the old regime. They can ap-

ident in the territory.

He is one of 16,700 people who

helpful with my application".

WHEN the Union flag comes down over a colony, most Britons usually

leave. But not Hong Kong, where the

number of British residents has just

overtaken Americans as the second-

At the handover last year there

were 22,200 British residents; ac-

cording to Immigration Department

figures, there were 28,000 resident in the Special Administrative Region

of Hong Kong at the end of Febru-

ary. Britons have rushed to apply for

resident visas since the handover.

partly because of a change in the

law and partly because Hong Kong

Many Britons work in the pro-

fessions and in managerial capacities.

In the past, many backpackers and

less skilled people worked as wait-

ers, barmen and delivery staff. When

Hong Kong was a colony British cit-

izens were admitted to stay for 12

months without needing work visus.

Britons were treated like everyone

else: if they wanted to work or

stay longer than six months. they

and imposing visa restrictions would

lead to an exodus. Many less skilled

Britons did go, leaving a number of

Western-style catering establish-

It was assumed lowering the flag

needed to apply for visas.

Last April the rules changed and

is still drawing Britons keen to take

advantage of high salaries.

largest group of foreigners.

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185, ⁻

75%

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Tagliffa (France)

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Approximately and the second

thorities have always maintained, but of a sinister conspiracy involving the mafia and the FBI. 'James Earl Ray was an innocent victim of the racism that was going on at

> the time' On the anniversary of what Jesse ackson calls Dr King's "crucibion" it has been traditional o evaluate the martyr's their skn but the content of

their chracter". But foretta Scott King, Dr prayer vigil would note the ad-King's ridow, and Andrew Young, he black former Unita clamou for a re-opened in-

called for a commission of inquity that would grant immunity to those who came forward with evidence of a conspiracy.

Conspiracy

inquiry call

years since

King's death

marks 30

in Washington ·

A BLACK church minister

situation in America was "far

better than a lot of black lead-

ers want to make it out to be"

and "a lot worse than a lot of

white people in denial want to

One measure of the progress

that has been made is that the

commemorations today to mark

the 30th anniversary of Martin

have been overshadowed by

demands for an inquiry into

claims that he was the victim not

of a solitary gunman, as the au-

make it out to be".

Mr Young - in his day one of from Boston, Massachusetts, recently observed that the racial . Dr King's more visible disciples - has gone so far as to propose that James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year jail sentence for the murder but claims he is innocent, should be granted clemency.

"Nobody is interested in retribution, not even justice," Mr Young told the Atlanta Constination. "We are interested in extending the mercy of the family Luther King's assassination and the movement to people like James Earl Ray, who regardless of his role was an innocent victim of the racism that was going on at the time."

While formally the commemorative speeches today in Memphis, Dr King's "Calvary" (again according to Jesse Jackson), will indeed dwell on racism and justice, the underlying theme will be more "who-

dunnit?" than "whodunnusin?" Which is not to say that the race question is likely to go away any time soon. In America it remains an obsession. But a glance at developments in Memphis in the last 30 years does tend to refute the view of black radical leaders who insist on maintaining that Dr King's work was in vain.

The reason Dr King made his fateful visit to Memphis in the first place was to denounce the appalling working conditions of the city's black sanitalegacy in terms of America's tion workers. The Rev Samuel failure o live up to his dream Billy Kyles, a local minister that on day people would be . who stood at Dr King's side secy the colour of onds before he was shot, said he

vances that have been made. ed State ambassador to the mayor, a black member of con-United Niions, have shifted the gress, a black head of the local emphasishis last week, leading school system and a black police chief. "I went to jail in 1962 vestigatio into the circum- for riding in the front of the stances of he assassination and bus," Mr Kyles told the New the possibe cover-up that fol- York Times. "Now the chairman 10 times higher in Britain than lowed. Ms Scott King has of the trustees board of my in the US.

Samī is on 5 years old, but his future already looks bleak. He has to fight for everything

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church is the general manager of that same bus company.

Memphis is no lone beacon of black advancement. Big American cities such as Dallas, Houston, Seattle, St Louis, San Francisco, New York, Washington. Denver have elected black mayors, even though in many cases their constituencies have been predominantly white.

In 1970 the US had a total of 1,469 black political office holders. Twenty-five years later the number had climbed to 8,406, Colin Powell, America's top military man during the Gulf War, would have beaten Bill Chaton in the 1996 presidential election, according to the evidence of the poils.

In the lower strata of society the statistics remain bleak, howhoped participants in today's ever, as the disproportionate figscheduled march, rally and ures for black poverty and black imprisonment reveal. And while crass expressions of white racism Today Memphis has a black are now rare, racial mistrust con-

tinues to fester like a sore. According to an eloquent set of statistics published by the Economist last year, the rate of inter-racial relationships between men and women is about

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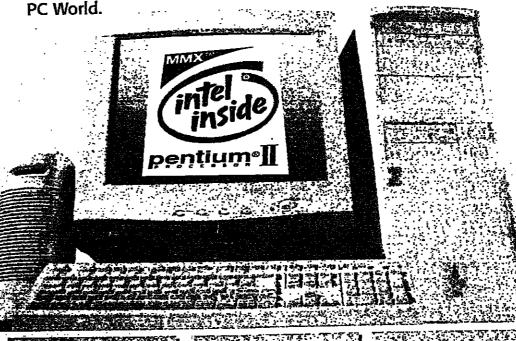
difference

Photograph: Plip Schulke/Corbis | ments without staff. But the auport the new permanent residents. Was Martin Luther King the victim of an FBI and mafia conspiracy? II IF YOU WANT MORE PC

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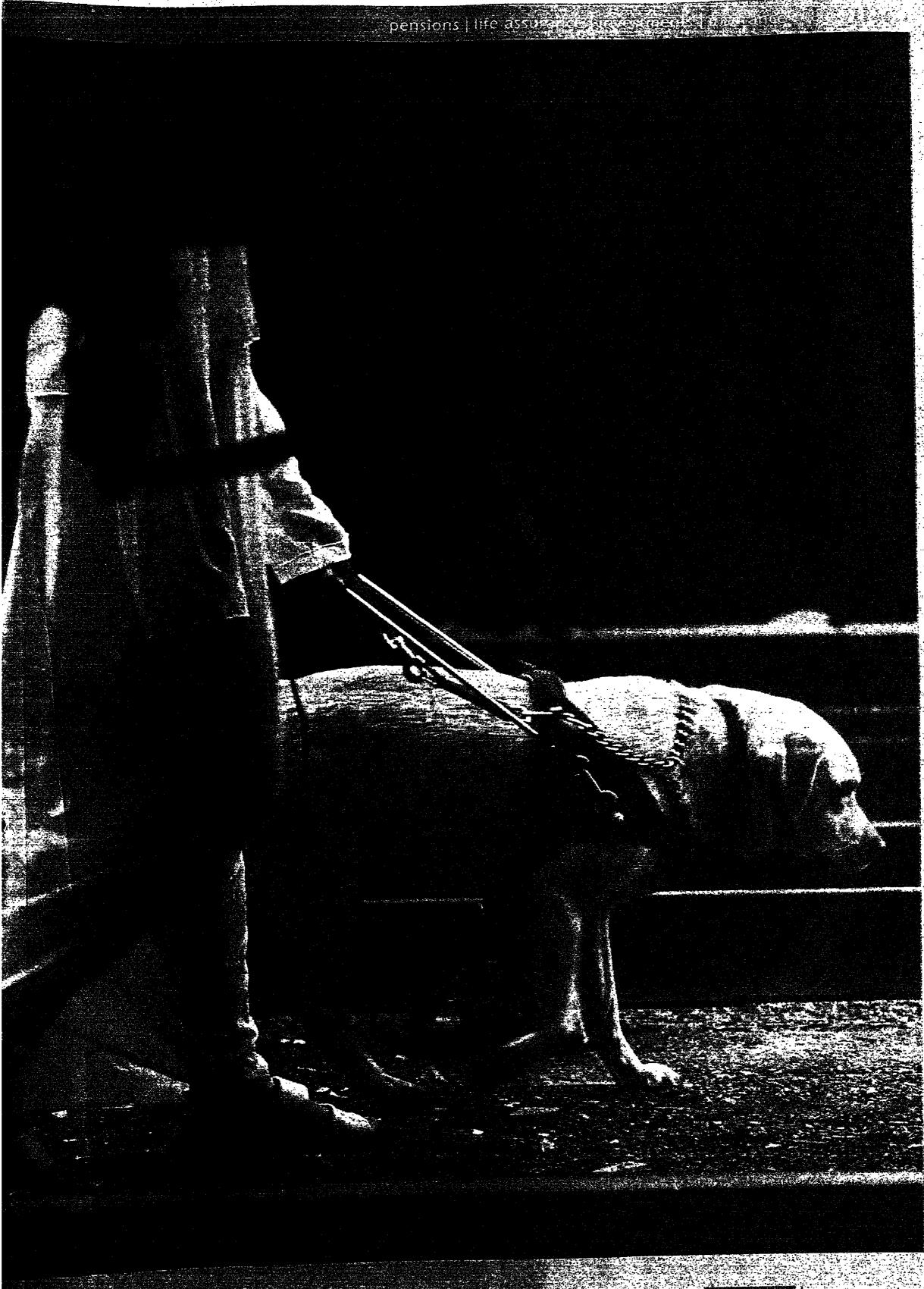
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Monks keep the Kosovo flame burning

"LORD have mercy", sings the choir, basso profundo. Gospodi pomilui ... Gospodi pomilui ... Gospodi pomilui. The voices echo through the medieval monastery of Decani, in the still-Serb province of Kosovo. The hearded monks celebrate mass in this most beautiful of Serbian normal. But these are not normal must suffer twinges of doubt about the quality of mercy, as the region rumbles towards full-scale war.

The monastery, with its rich interior, covered from floor to roof in repression might blow up in their face. stunning 14th-century frescoes, is at the heart of the belief in the Serbness of Kosovo. Barely 10 per cent of the population of Kosovo is Serb. Few have ever visited this povertystricken region. But they will still tell you this is their "heartland". Demographically, politically and geographically, the phrase is wrong. Historically, it is correct. In the Balkans, that is all that counts.

The humiliating defeat by the Turks at the battle of Kosovo Field in 1389 marked a date to remember for every Serb - "the Armageddon" of the Serbian people", in one writer's phrase. After Kosovo Field, only the monasteries remained, scattered across the region in commemoration of Serb rule. Each is full of historical resonance - like the monastery at Gracanica, whose monks gave communion to Tsar Lazar and his army

numbered. The traveller Edith Durham wrote at the beginning of this century, "The [Serb] cause was lost, dead and gone - as lost as is Calais to England, and the English claim to Normandy." But the monasteries have remained, as the high-water mark of an ancient Serb identity.

In 1989, on the 600th anniversary churches as though everything were of Kosovo Field, the Serb Communist leader Slobodan Milosevic protimes. Even the most devout believer claimed that Serbs must be the masters once more. The majority Albanians were to be crushed. Serbs adored their powerful new leader failing to realise the new culture of

> In Kosovo, the repression is stronger than ever before. A few miles from the tranquillity of Decani, Serb police recently have been killing Albanians and destroying their homes. There are armed checkpoints in the town. As you travel through the villages, you meet Albanians packing up their belongings and abandoning their homes - on carts, on tractors, on foot. There is a mood of fear and an expectation of full-scale war.

In the short term, well-equipped Serb forces hold all the cards. But the Albanian majority cannot be reready, an armed backlash has begun. which seems certain to get worse. The monks of Decani feel nervous.

Fr Sava, a senior monk at Decani. is unusual in criticising the policies of Slobodan Milosevic for propelling Kosovo towards war. "Serbia should be democratised. An undemocratic get. Attacks have been reported at er." But you cannot help feeling it Belgrade, and promised them "re-



pressed by military force for ever. Al- Safe haven? A monk at prayer in Decani. So far, the monastery has not suffered any violence, but the monks are an obvious target

situation better - but has used this the Drenica area, where the Albansituation for its own power," So far, ian rebellion is strongest. Fr Sava Decani has not itself suffered vio- knows confrontation is no way into lence. But Fr Sava and his fellow the future, and insists: "No side monks are an obvious, if innocent tar- should have dominance over the oth-

regime has done nothing to make the the convent at Devic, in the heart of may be too late for reconciliation. Many Serbs now living here have themselves been expelled from their homes - for example, from the Krajina region of Croatia. The Serb authorities did not want them in

ception centres" in Kosovo. It was a lie; there were no reception cen- all time ... It has been an elemental tres, they have been abandoned.

The words of Edith Durham, written in 1909, seem horrifically apposite today. "Ineradicably fixed in the breast of the Albanian is the belief

that the land has been his rightly for struggle for existence and survival of the strongest, carried out in relentless obedience to nature's law, which

says There is not piace for you both.

You must kill - or be killed."

Yeltsin avoids clash on choice for PM

MOSCOW (AP) - The Russ- lier nomination of 35-year-old ing political stability and pub- ers oppose Mr Kiriyenko's can- dissolve the Duma unless it ian parliament's lower house Sergei Kiriyenko and resub- lic accord." vesterday postponed the vote on Boris Yeltsin's nominee for that reached the State Duma prime minister after the President offered lawmakers a facesaving way out of a looming

shewdown. Mr Yeltsin revoked his ear-

mitted his candidacy in a letter early yesterday.

feuding with the Communists a role in forming the new gov-The move, a legal formality Duma over the formation of a the President's free-market ecogiving the house an extra week new government since he nomic policies. to consider the candidate, was abruptly sacked the previous taken "for the sake of preserv- one on 23 March. The hard-lin-

didacy, citing his youth and The President has been lack of experience. They want and other hard-liners in the ernment and seek to scale back

Mr Yeltsin initially ignored the demands and threatened to

broad discussions with his legislative opponents next week and suggested that they propose candidates for ministerial posts in the new government. Mr Yeltsin has also said he will retain key members of the out-

approves his choice, but he-

now appears willing to com-

promise. He has agreed to hold

going cabinet and has no plans to reverse his economic course.

eader Gennady Zyuganov, warned that his faction - the Mr Kiriyenko in spite of Mr Yeltsin's compromise steps. He also said the Communists would only propose their candidates to the cabinet if the President

Israel tells Palestinians it was not behind assassination

By Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem

ISRAEL was trying hard yesterday to persuade Palestinians that it was not behind the mysterious death of Muhyideen al-Sharif, the Islamic militant and er happens.

Ami Ayalon, head of Israel's volvement rests on motive, internal security, saw Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, after midnight. An Israeli source that Israel was not responsible briefed Ayalon on the Palestinian investigation."

killed Sharif is important because Hamas, the organisation agrees to revise his economic to which he belonged, has said those behind the killing. it will make revenge attacks. Is-

despite an increase in security. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Mr Arafat's Palestinian An- on an agreement to withdraw The argument for Israeli in-

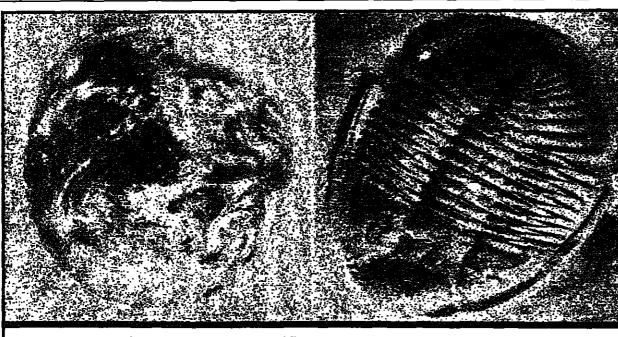
said: "Ayalon stressed to Arafat Hamas most wanted by Israel- said: "Sharif is a Palestinian Duma's largest - would reject for Sharif's death and Arafat ganising suicide bombings. Israel The controversy over who tempt, in Amman, Jordan last peace envoy, it also sent in asyear, involved an elaborate at-

The pathologist's report says cannot go on like this.

BRITISH AIRWAY

raelis and Palestinians both. Sharif was shot dead three hours think these are near inevitable, ... before the explosion which mutilated his body. None of this is conclusive. But as Palestinians Prime Minister, says he will hold see Mr Netanyahu as reneging thority responsible for whatev from the West Bank, they are unlikely to give Israel the benefit of the doubt.

Mr Sharif's funeral in Ramodus operandi and the pathol- mallan was attended even by ogist's report. Sharif was the moderate Palestinian leaders member of the military wing of such as Faisar Frusseini. He because of his involvement in or- martyr and Israet is responsible for his death." He claimed that has previously assassinated on the same weekend Israel had Hamas leaders. The last such at- rebuffed Dennis Ross, the US sassination squad into an autempt to conceal the identity of . fonomous Palestinian enclave, adding: "The peace process

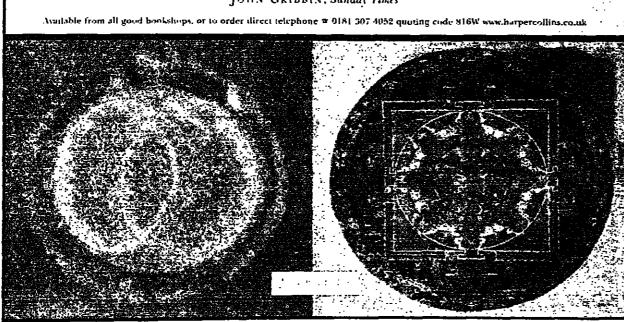


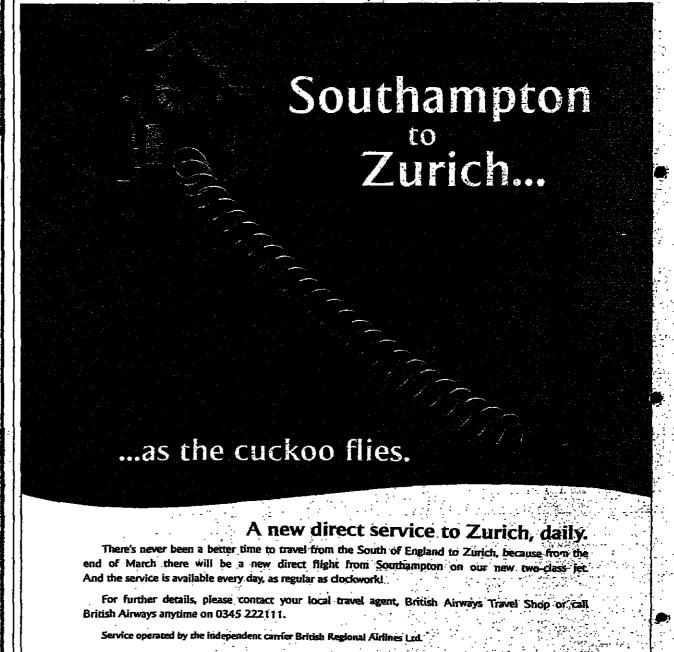
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Optimism: Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, tells the Second Asia-Europe Meeting in London yesterday st has come and gone' in the region's economic crisis Photograph: Michael Stephens/PA

Positive gloss fails to dispel fears over Asian economy

WORLD leaders yesterday put on an optimistic face over the Asian crisis, but could not dispel two fears: that Japan is not doing enough to help restore the region's economic health, and that the crisis may destroy trade and market liberalisation

speeches to the second Asia-Europe (Asem) summit in London yesterday to promise that the two giant trading blocs would co-operate to find a lasting solution. Europe was not a "fairinsisted, meeting criticism from Japan and elsewhere that the EU was not pulling its weight in helping Asia tackle its difficulties.

Other European leaders argued that Japan's problems were nowhere near as bleak as

painted - most notably this week by Norio Ogha, head of have reinforced doubts about the Sony electronics giant, who declared that the country was tumbling into recession,... Yesterday Mr Hashimoto

sounded almost truculent. "The worst has come and gone," he declared, and "we are now seesome countries faith in the ing new steps forward" - a reftouted as the means to solve it. financial picture in South Ko-Both Tony Blair and his rea, Thailand and Malaysia, if apanese counterpart, Ryutaro not Indonesia, which will need Hashimoto, used their opening a \$3bn World Bank aid package, quite apart from the \$43bn financial bailout now apparently close to being agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Hashimoto further insisted that with the \$124bn ecoweather friend", Mr Blair nomic stimulus package tabled last month, his country was playing its part in rescuing Asia. Not only was Japan the main source of economic support for the region, but it would "take the necessary measures" at

home also.

Japan's health, and familiar worries that promised measures would ever make it to the statute book. Pointedly, the British government spokesman the UK view, Japan was doing

The EU's external trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, warned that some aspects of Japan's scheme might be "subject to further study or delayed implementation". It was essential, he said, that the package contained "permanent and substantial" tax cuts.

In their final statement today, the 10 Asian and 15 European leaders attending the summit will acknowledge that the crisis is not yet over and that "vigilance" is still required. They will also pledge to resist

Most significantly, they will stress the importance of measures to help the poor. The draft circulating yesterday spoke of the need to consider the "social aspects of the current financial difficulties", and to "protect yesterday declined to say that in social expenditures" and preserve a safety net to help the

> At one level this responds to the unrest starting to surface in the region as recession bites. But the EU is also trying to prevent the crisis destroying the belief of less advanced countries in the very merits of deregulation and liberalisation.

As Chuan Leekpai, the Thai Prime Minister, said, this crisis could "put into question the value of an open economy". Developing countries, he warned. were less prepared to handle the challenges of liberalisation. It was vital they not be discouraged by protectionism, and press on what had happened in Asia, or with liberalisation of both trade use it as an excuse to close their and their own internal markets. economies to the outside world

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Is Japan finished? No: just in recession

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo

ANYONE panicking about the "collapse" of the Japanese agency, Moody's, changed its aseconomy, which the head of sessment of the Japanese econ-Sony, Norio Ohga, predicted omy from "stable" to "negative". this week, would do well to save up their money, jump on a Japanese. But to the rest of the plane, and pay a visit to the centre of the upheaval and chaos the doomed city of Tokyo.

Squeeze on to the busy but immaculate subway and travel to the area known as Shibuya, full of restaurants, amusement arcades and department stores. Look at the prices on the shelves, observe the weekend crowds, and notice the schoolgirls in their a significant difference. £800 outfits, with Fendi handbags and mobile phones. Ask yourself whether this looks like a city on the verge of meltdown.

Mr Hashimoto has warned that unemployment in Japan is rising to levels similar to those in Europe

when judging Mr Ohga's apocalyptic remarks, some perspechave is necessary. For all the grim news, the situation in Japan is not even close to that of Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea, which have been driven to turn to the International Monetary Fund for rescue. The situation in Japan does not even compare to the economic suffering of Western Europe during the 1970s and 1980s.

Nobody would disagree that Japan is in trouble, and that the actions of its prime minister, who was blamed for failing to Rvutaro Hashimoto, who is in London this week for talks with Asian and European counterurts, have done little to

improve the situation. The Nikkei share average in Tokyo fell by another percentage point yesterday after bigger tumbles earlier in the week and the yen weakened against the dollar to its lowest rate since 1992.

vey, businesses are gloomier than they have been for four years, and yesterday the credit

This is shocking to the world it is not so surprising that after more than 20 years of continuous growth the country is moving into a full recession.

When Mr Ohga talks of a colthis. When he spoke to Japanese reporters, a few hours before his speech in English, he spoke not of "collapse", but of "stalling" -

Recessions are unpleasant, but only by Japanese standards does Japan's present plight justify the use of a word like collanse. Unemployment is reaching undreamt of heights at 3.6 per cent, even though in Germany that figure would be hailed as a triumph. Yet, when trying to dramatise the gravity of Japan's plight. Mr Hashimoto warned that "unemployment numbers are on the verge of rising to levels

comparable to those in Europe". A few years of economic discomfort may even benefit Japan in the long run, by carrying off weak companies and clearing the

field for the tougher specimens. This week, Japan launched Things are going badly for its so-called "Big Bang", a fivethe Japanese economy but, year programme of financial deregulation to improve efficiency among banks and stockbrokers. It is a bold plan and Japan's finance companies and bureaucracies would never have been submitted to such radical steps if the economy were not in such a shaky state.

This is not to underestimate the importance of Japan's difficulties. Mr Ohga spoke of his fears for a deflationary spiral, and compared Mr Hashimoto to Herbert Hoover, the American president of the Twenties

stop the Great Depression. The stricken economies of east Asia need happy, confident Japanese consumers to buy their exports. Without them, the pain afflicting Indonesia will take far longer to abate. It is there, if anywhere, that Japan's recession will cause true collapse, not in rich but gloomy Japan itself.

Downgraded, page 24

German threat to Le Pen

PROSECUTORS in Munich have asked for the French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's immunity against prosecution to be lifted following anti-Jewish comments allegedly made by him in the city. State prosecutor Helmut Meyer-Staude said a request had been sent from his office to the European Parliament, of which

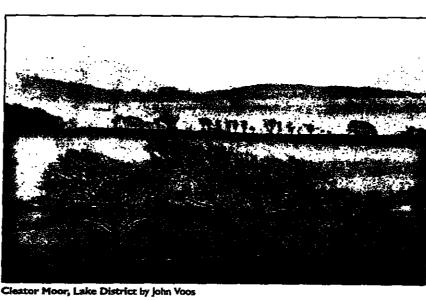
Saddam's palaces inspected

UN inspectors and diplomats ended their first round of inspec-tions of Iraq's presidential sites and plan to leave Baghdad today. Iraq's deputy prime minister Tariq Aziż who supervised the inspections on the Iraqi side praised the visits as a "triumph for truth over falsehood".

ON SUNDAY Photograph Offer



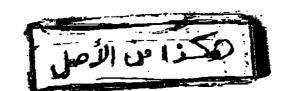
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Scenes from a mall: violent customers

STARING eyes, clenched fists, clenched teeth, Sweating, rapid breathing, foaming at the mouth, going red. These are the words written on the flip-chart at a training session for shopping-mall staff in coping with challenging behaviour from customers.

Dealing with shoppers nowadays isn't just about a polite exchange of words alongside the exchange of cash. The paying public can be difficult, rude – even violent. Rather than leave dealing with the tricky customers to security or private detectives, the managers of Cribbs Causeway, the out-of-town shopping complex near Bristol which opened this week, have decided to hold speeific courses for all the 60 or more staff, from cleaners to top managers.

The training consultant, Jonathan Coles, begins to elaborate a modus operandi of appropriate response. "These are cues or clues that the situation is getting more serious for you. You are beginning to think about personal safety, and you need to apply some calming techniques."

The 10 trainees listen intently, and chip in with suggestions about what to do when faced with someone who is losing control. They could be simply frustrated or they could have forgotten to take essential medication. If someone is shouting, talk quietly, says Coles. If they're gesturing wildly, hold out your hands, palms out, in a gesture of submission.

You could try responding assertively, he says, but do it just once, and go back to calming if it doesn't work. Above all, never turn your back, and try to signal to a colleague or to the watching security cameras if you are in difficulty.

"The locus for staff in shopping centres is usually directed more to the criminal than the customer, and in dealing with violence," says the centre's manager. Jonathan Duckworth, who is also one of the trainees at

"But you have to make the staff understand what people might want, rather than simply saying that they can't come in. We are a shopping centre not a battleground and we expect people to behave as if they are in a shopping centre. The behaviour of the public is going to be very, very good."

Assessments of other malls' performance suggests that around 300,000 people a week will visit the 130 shops. Cribbs Causeway has been designed as a very attractive environment for shoppers, light, clean and crisp, with a glazed atrium over the entire length. With 7,000 parking spaces, a leisure complex with a 12-screen multiplex cinema, and its location on the northern edge of Bristol. near to the M5 and M4 motorway network. Cribbs Causeway's catchment area stretches from Worcester to Taunton on the M5 and from Swindon to Swansea on

But while the new mall might be built for shopping till you're dropping, it's inevitably going to assume a whole range of meanings for the people who go there. And what about the mall-rats, those teenagers who make the mall their home from home, turning a retail environment into a theatre, complete with elaborately coded grooming and courtship rituals?

"They're our customers or potential customers, too", Duckworth says, "We have to treat people as individuals and not apply stereotypes. If there are types of behaviour that you don't like, you have to deal with them in other ways than simply going "Oi! Stop!" It has to be professional, just like shopping should be.

Back at the training session, it is revealed that the staff's ultimate weapon in dealing with awkward customers will be offering them a nice cup of tea. The touchy-feely management style has a very Californian feel to it, as befits the first mega-mall on England's laid-back west coast. But never, ever, turn your back - right?

Phil Johnson



An Englishman abroad: As the storm clouds gather over South-east Asia's economic miracle, our expertise in dealing with insolvency is more in demand than ever Photograph. Reuters

Saving the Tigers

When your economy goes belly-up, there's only one thing for it: call in the Brits. John Willcock reports on the export boom in crisis management

leaders at the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in London vesterday that Britain would do all it could to help sort out the Asian financial crisis, he failed to mention that we are already doing just that.

A British army of accountants and solicitors is involved in fixing the shambles, as effective in its way as any "Cool Britannia" export such as the Spice Girls. For this is one area where we already lead the world; sorting out companies that have gone belly-up, or rescuing ones

that are going that way. In the upside-down universe what is good for the rest of us means lean times for the liquidator. This is why plane-loads of UK company rescue experts have been flying to the Far East to sort out the current financial economy with the lowest level the UK high-street banks of

WHEN Tony Blair promised of receiverships since the La son boom of the 1980s.

It is a testament to the in-

solvency brigades' deliberately low profile that the Prime Minister probably did not have them in mind when he told Asian leaders vesterday: "We are not fair-weather friends, who turn away at the first sign of difficulty. But partners, for the long term, ready to stick by Asia through thick and thin.

Earlier this week. Sony chairman Norio Ohga warned that "the Japanese economy is on the brink of collapse". The sheer scale of the problems in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, of the insolvency practitioner. South Korea and the rest of Asia is enough to make any liquidator salivate and any company-rescue expert flourish his slide rule. For example, Japan's banks have bad debts of more than \$577bn (£356bn). crisis, leaving behind a UK That compares with a peak for

£6bn in the last recession six part of the globe. As such, he has happened: 58 companies to improving multinational years ago.

arge as the US. And the Japan-Bird, an insolvency partner with Price Waterhouse, says: "This leaves them with a bit of a capitalisation problem."

Visit any four-star hotel in a major Asian city and you will find it fully booked, with the pinstriped British in residence. The list of company rescue experts who have headed out east is distinguished: it includes Stephen Adamson and Nigel Hamilton, the heavyweights of Ernst & Young who rescued Canary Wharf. Both are beavily involved in the same work in Thailand. Then, there is Bird and his international team who have made a specialism of big. complicated insolvencies since taking the lead in unwinding Robert Maxwell's trans-Atlantic business empire.

Stephen Taylor is the partner at Coopers & Lybrand who sits in London and decides which partners are sent to which

has been closely watching Then there is the Japanese events in Asia. Taylor is cautious insurance sector, which has about seeing Asia as a place for premiums of \$510bn a year - as insolvency men to make money: "We haven't sent out aircraft ese life industry's assets total carriers full of insolvency pracin life companies now stands at the South China Sea - we send clients want them," he says.

Having said that Coopers already has company-rescue people in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Recently, Coopers was appointed liquidator to CA Pacific. an investment bank in Hong Kong with many similarities to that other recent casualty. Peregine, also in liquidation. Jan Blazuw, a Coopers partner, is

lead liquidator of CA Pacific. and faces the problem of sorting out more than 11,000 client accounts, including business accounts as well as individual ones. The accounts are currently the subject of a legal dispute, and the liquidation promises to be a long and complicated one. Like Bird, Taylor identifies the willingness by governments to implement the IMF reforms as a key to the problem.

that lent to the property sector : company rescue techniques. - where many of the problems devalue its currency - have on the Thai not insolvent. Another 140 were bankrupt and 38 were hov-

insolvent. Taylor recently mobilised 87 ex-patriate insolvency people to fly out to Thailand to deal with a wobbling financial institution, but, in the event, they were not needed. These ex-patriates came from not only the UK, but Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and Ireland, too.

Other firms have also insolvency laws are broadly similar. And there is the ubiquitous Neil Cooper, now with Buchler Phillips, who has been involved both with Maxwell and Asil Nadir, of Polly Peck

Then there are the lawyers, started, forcing the country to as any accountant will tell you. Taylor says: "There is a problem been suspended. By the third of hotel space." Cameron quarter of 1997, a survey by Markby Hewitt. Lovell White \$2,000bn. Shareholders' equity titioners and plonked them in Paribas Asia Equity estimated Durrant, Denton Hall and that of 197 non-financial com- Allen & Overy are all out there.

Exchange, only 19 were clearly Brits disembarking at the airports, every insolvency man has stressed the need to act with ering between being bust and sensitivity. "It's vital to work through local firms. These are proud people, after all," says Bird. Most UK practitioners advise local businesses to avoid selling assets at the bottom of the market, however desperate the situation may seem.

If - and it is still if - the Asian financial crisis does blow over and the various countries manage to reform their economies brought in people from Eng- over the next three to five lish-speaking countries, where years, then UK insolvency practitioners will be able to take a significant share of the credit.

This isn't just happening in Asia. British practitioners have been disparched to Russia, the Ukraine, central Europe, and fame. Cooper is an expert on Romania. Mind you, it is doubtcross-border insolvencies and ful that Tony Blair will be keen 🗗 Just take a look at Thailand about to take over the helm of to promote the slogan, "The to understand the scale of what INSOL, a global body dedicated UK: liquidator to the world.

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Miles Anderson, Barbara Flynn **NEIL STUKE, ANDREW TIERNAN,** EMILY WOOF are directed by DOMINIC COOKE

Digging up the past is a race against time

Anthea Gerrie on the archaeologists who are trying to rewrite history in an Oxfordshire rubbish dump

week for the urchaeologists of Stanton Harcourt, As they continue their dig in the Oxfordshire countryside for remains of a 200,000-year-old settlement, they are showered with a weekly delivery of domestic refuse.

Time is of the essence. This is a landful site, and the dig has less than a year to continue before it is completely filled in with rubbish.

In the midst of it all is a circle where the archaeologists keep searching for human remains they believe exist at a site previously thought uninhabitable by

FRIDAY is the worst day of the man. They are working eight hours a day, six days a week, and employing extra helpers. As the weather warms up they will start wearing masks because the smell is so disgusting.

So far, the remains unearthed have included more than 1,000 large mammals - including woolly mammoths, elephant, bison, horse and deer that prove there was a warm interglacial period in Britain 200,000 years ago.

But even more significant is the cache of beautifully made stone tools that Dr Katherine Scott, leading the dig, says



could not possibly have washed into the excavated gravel pit that was once a river bed from any other area.

"I am hoping and praying we will come across human remains before time runs out." says Dr Scott "We have only been able to cover less than one third of the whole five-acre site in the time available."

Scott, a research fellow in prehistory at St Cross College, Oxford, works with her PhD student, Christine Buckingham, and a couple of helpers in the most foul conditions imaginable. "We are surrounded by garbage and seagull droppings: Friday is a particularly bad day when all the domestic refuse arrives.

"But the site was long ago marked for waste disposal landfill, and we have been funded to the tune of £27,000 a year by the quarry owners.". Dr Scott became involved

when a digger driver at the Stanton Harcourt quarry hit a tusk in 1989 and called her in from a mammoth - the same in every respect as a woolly mammoth, except two-thirds the size, and given the temperature of the area, it's debatable

whether it had any wool on it." The team set about comb-

ing the whole five-acre site and came across the remains of straight-tusked elephant as well as borse, deer, lion, hyena and brown bear, all dating back a quarter of a million years. However, all the bones, tusks and teeth may ultimately prove less important than bags of brown silt that the team has not yet had to identify it. "It proved to be a chance to fully identify. "They contain up to 50 species of insect that will provide vital information once we have had a chance to catalogue them."

Alas, commercial consider-

Dr Katherine Scott at the waste site with a segment of a lion's jaw bone which is 250,000 years old Photograph: john Lawrence

ations will impede full discovery of the site: "The owners have been fremendously co-operative, but we have already lost two acres and will lose half the remaining three in May."

She admits she is upset by the contrast between the rubbish tip of today and the landscape she has reconstructed. "When you stand with all the rubbish bags flapping around you and the machinery roaring in the distance, it's astonishing to think this was once a meadow with a river running through it and a forest nearby.

"The meadow is the key to human habitation: it used to be thought that man did not want to live in forestland, but the evidence of grassland in the area puts a whole new slant on things. We know the beautifully made hand axes and other tools were. fashioned out of Wallingford stone, which would have had to be carried upstream. The quality of the handiwork makes it hard to think of that species of early homo sapiers being all that much different from us."



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公司 第一年的**海地心学**

How Bill Clinton neutered the feminist movement

The President's sordid affairs have drawn barely a murmur from America's powerful sisterhood. In an exclusive extract from the forthcoming issue of 'Vanity Fair', Marjorie Williams reveals some ugly truths

OKAY, class, let's review. The man in question has been sued for sexual harassment over an episode that allegedly included dropping his trousers to waggle his erect penis at a woman who held a \$6.35-an-hour clerical job in the state government over which he presided. Another woman has charged that when she asked him for a job he invited her into his private office, fondled her breasts, and placed her hand on his crotch. A third woman conceded to friends that when she was a 21-year-old intern she began an affair with the man much older, married, and the head of the organisation whose lowliest employee she was. Actually, it was less an affair than a service contract, in which she allegedly dashed into his office, when summoned, to perform oral sex on him. After their liaison was revealed, he denied everything. leaving her to be portrayed as a tramp and a liar. Or, in his own words, "that woman".

Let us not even mention the former lover who was steered to a state job; or the man's alleged habit of using law-enforcement officers to solicit sexual partners for him; or his routine use of staff, lawyers, and private investigators to tar the reputation of any woman who tries to call him to account for his actions. Can you find the problems with his behaviour? Take your time: these problems are apparently of an order so subtle as to escape the notice of many of the smartest women in America – the writers, lawyers, activists, office-holders, and academics who call themselves feminists.

When news broke that Independent Counsel Kenneth Start was investigating whether President Clinton had lied under oath about his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, or encouraged others to lie, the cacophony that ensued was notable for the absence of one set of voices: the sisterly chorus that backed up Anita Hill seven years ago when her charges of sexual harassment nearly stopped Clarence Thomas's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

With very few exceptions, feminists were either silent or dismissive this time. "If anything, it sounds like she put the moves on him," said Susan Fahudi, author of Backlush. Betty Friedan weighed in, but only to huff her outrage that Clinton's "enemies are attempting to bring him down through allegations about some dalliance with an intern... Whether it's a fantasy, a set-up or true, I simply don't care."

It was not until former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey appeared on 60 Minutes in mid-March to make public the allegation she had formerly made in a deposition — that Clinton had manhandled her during a private meeting in which she sought a paying job — that some feminists began to make reluctant noises of dismay. The National Organization for Women (NOW), which until then had found itself "mable to comment responsibly," averred that "Kathleen Willey's sworn testimony moves the question from whether the President is a 'womaniser' to whether he is a sexual predator."

But NOW'S change of heart was by no means typical of feminist activists. Many others hung tough. Anita Perez Ferguson, president of the National Women's Political Caucus—the premier group promoting female participation in American politics—described Willey's charges as "quantity rather than quality, in terms of my feetings." She continued: "There's no question that it's disturbing... But to come to any judgment now is definitely not something that I think is timely."

7ith the exception of a few Republicans, women in Congressincluding several swept to power by female outrage over the Senate's treatment of Anita Hill - have shown an equal agility of mind. Their excuses range from the procedural stonewall ("What is important for the American people to know is that there is a process in place to deal with these allegations," in the words of Senator Barbara Boxer), to the creative inversion (What about Ken Starr's "humiliation" of the women he dragged before the grand jury? fumed Representative Nancy Pelosi) to the truly fanciful twist on gender politics ("Not so many years ago, a woman couldn't be a White House



intern," said a straight-faced Senator Carol Moseley-Braun on Meet the Press). Feminists have, all along, muffled, disguised excused and denied the worst aspects of the President's behaviour with women - especially in their reactions to Paula Jones, whose sexual-harassment suit they have greeted with attitudes ranging from tepid boilerplate support to outright hostility. The chief reason for feminists' continued support of Clinton is clear: Clinton is their guy. Clarence Thomas was their enemy. Bob Packwood, a liberal Republican who was the next recognised boor to walk up to the plank. was a harder case for feminists, but in the end they tied the blindfold. Clinton, though, is the hardest case, because he is the most reliably supportive President they have ever had.

But if political opportunism is the main cause of their current blindness, it's not the only one. You can find in their reasoning a road map to everything that ails liberal feminism today, political self-dealing, class bias, and dedication to a bleak

The individual pieces of the Clinton saga are complex, snaky things, with their own tawdry confusions

vision of sexual "liberation" that has deprived them of what was once the moral
force of their beliefs. So, it seems appropriate to say here that I am a feminist and
a registered Democrat. Many of the feminist activists in Washington are women I've
known for years as sources; I feel an open
sympathy for much of the work they do.
Yet, I also feel something close to fury over
their failure to call Clinton to account for
his actions. My anger may be bred, in part,
by my own past willingness to "put in perspective" Clinton's questionable behaviour
with women – enough, at least, to vote for
him twice.

The individual pieces of the Clinton saga are complex, snaky things with their own tawdry confusions. But these are precisely the complications that Clinton has capitalised on. The truth is that, while a lot of the facts are murky, enough of them are clear. We have good evidence, for crample, that Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, had

a state trooper escort Paula Jones to his suite at Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel during her work hours, and we know that she gave contemporaneous accounts of the meeting to several witnesses which closely track the allegations in her lawsuit. We know that there is extensive evidence of a relationship between Clinton and Lewinsky that has not been challenged by the administration. We know Arkansas state troopers have said under oath that Clinton used them to enable his sexual escapades in Little Rock. And we know that Clinton has fied about his past behaviour - including the sizeable lie that underlay the supposedly informed decision of the American people that they didn't care about his womanising: his claborately careful 1992 denials of his affair with Gennifer Flowers.

Where America's women leaders have failed is in their unwillingness to draw even the most commonsensical conclusions from the evidence of Clinton's recklessness.

It's plain enough why feminists want to keep Clinton in office. He is pro-choice; he signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, which had been vetoed twice by a Republican president; he favours affirmative action, which benefits women more than any ethnic group in the country: he has made childcare a policy priority this year. According to the Center for the American Woman and Politics, Clinton has appointed 10 of the 21 women who have served in Cabinet-level positions, including the first woman ever to be secretary of state or attorney general. And he appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court.

While most of the Washington-based women's organisations that lobby and promote women's participation in electoral politics maintain a veneer of bipartisanship, a web of relationships links them to the Clinton administration. White House communications director Ann Lewis, who has been one of Clinton's fiercest defenders on television, was once the chair of the Democratic Task Force of the National Women's Political Caucus. Anita Perez Ferguson, who now chairs the caucus, formerly worked in the Clinton administration, as a White House liaison for the transportation department, and at the Democratic National Committee.

And then there's friendship: Hillary Rodham Clinton's friendships, in particular, may have neutralised some of the women who might otherwise be criticising Clinton. When I called Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, who chairs the (theoretically bipartisan) Women's Campaign Fund, her assistant cheerfully told me, "I know that Marjorie has not made any comments about

recent" - here he stopped and groped for a word - "events? Just because she is friends with Hillary." When women activists were charging up the hill to oppose the nominations of Thomas and other conservative Reagan-Bush appointees, one of their comrades-in-arms was Melanne Verveer, then the chief lobbyist for the liberal organisation People for the American Way, now the First Lady's chief of staff.

grown over time, even as the allegations about his sexual behaviour have increased. During Clinton's first campaign, women activists were suspicious of the "New Democratic" elements of his agenda. To this day, they remain angry at him for signing into law the radical welfare revisions of 1996, which overwhelmingly affect poor women.

But with that exception, there has been sea change in their attitudes toward him. For one thing, after the congressional elections of 1994, they saw him as all they had standing between them and Newt Gingrich. For another, the 1996 election marked the first time the gender gap exceeded a president's margin of victory, and suddenly feminists had, in Clinton, a poster boy for the theory on which they had long based their claims to power. (Never mind that a scant minority of the women voters in question were voting on "feminist" issues; most were moderates who liked what Clinton had to say on education, jobs and crime.) At last feminists felt that they had some real leverage with the White House.

There is a shift in elite opinion about both Clinton and sexual mores. Exhibit A was a bizarre 30 January gathering hosted by the New York Observer at the restaurant Le Bernardin, where 10 Manhattan "supergals" ~ including writers Katie Roiphe, Erica Jong, Nancy Friday and Francine Prose, designer Nicole Miller, former Saturday Night Live contributor Patricia Marx, and "retired dominatrix and writer" Susan Shellogg – were invited to drink wine and analyse the scandal.

The resulting exchange, published by in the New York Observer's 9 February issue, was galactically strange. The women agreed that they liked Clinton better for having had a titiliating affair, after all, he's kind of a hunk. Jong, for one, wants a president who is "alive from the waist down," and Marx declared him "cute and getting cuter all the time." They pronounced Starr (in Friday's words) "a big sissy", and speculated about whether Lewinsky had swallowed the President's semen. "Oh," squealed Jong, "imagine swallowing the Presidential come."

It was the most embarrassing thing I had read in a long time. But then I opened the next week's New Yorker, which contained a swooning "Fax from Washington" written by Tina Brown herself, describing the 5 February White House dinner for British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The subtext was that the Clinton scandal had marvellously improved the President's aura; it made him deem so ... hot "Now see your President. tall and absurdly debonair, as he dances with a radiant blonde, his wife ... Amid the cliches about his charm, his glamour is undersung... Forget the dog-in-the-manger. down-in-the-mouth neo-puritanism of the op-ed tumbrel drivers, and see him instead as his guests do: a man in a dinner jacket with more heat than any star in the room."

This is precisely the sort of retro whipped cream that feminists are supposed to be able to see through: once upon a time, they construed it as their job to help the rest of us do the same. But these days, feminists – the famous feminists, that is: the mainstream feminists: the ones who are called up by newspaper reporters and TV

Hillary is the crucial figure – in effect, his feminist beard, the symbolic guarantor of his political bone fides

stations – are an established part of the country's élites: the media elite in New York, the political elite in Washington. And this is one of the major reasons they have failed to hold Clinton's feet to the fire.

In easing past the contradictions of the feminist class system. Hillary Clinton is the crucial figure. It's common knowledge that she has been her husband's most important protector. "The fact that Hillary doesn't seem bothered by it gives women an excuse, in a way, to be tolerant of his behaviour," says Radeliffe Public Policy Institute fellow Wendy Kaminer.

But less appreciated is a second, more subtle way in which Hillary has shielded her busband. She is, in effect, his feminist beard: the symbolic guarantor of his political bona fides. He may hit on women like Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones, her presence says, but when it comes to sharing a home (and a presidency) he chose a woman like me. Again and again, feminists

cite the Hillary factor as mitigating evidence. Gloria Steinem told me: "He's married to a woman who's at least his equal, whom he clearly likes and respects."

n some ways, it's baffling that feminists can still argue seriously that one Hillary trumps a multitude of Monicas. Even leaving aside Clinton's repeated public humiliations of his wife, she's always been a dubious feminist heroine: after all, she married her power, and in the White House she has wielded it without accountability. In truth, there's an awful affront to women in the apparently sharp distinctions that Clinton draws between the kind of woman you marry and the kind of woman you seek out for pleasure. We were supposed to be doing away with the Madonna and the whore – or at least trying to integrate them.

If feminists had stopped to think of Monica Lewinsky as a real person, it might have slowed them down. The most grotesque aspect of the case is this determination to depict Lewinsky's end of the alleged affair as liberated, autonomous female sexuality in action, instead of as the pathetic picture it was, of a young woman seeking a dubious affirmation in all the wrong places. To be sure, the May-December romance is always a complex, two-way transaction. But what little we know of the Clinton-Lewinsky relationship suggests that in all of the specifics that matter - when he called, when and where they met, what they actually did with each other, and even when she was allowed to speak to him - the relationship was controlled (duh!) by the powerful, married, 50-ish man, not by the 20-something woman on the lowest rung of the status ladder.

Why do feminists find it so hard to acknowledge the ugliness of this arrangement? One reason is that Lewinsky's age is a very touchy point: if you have argued for years against parental consent laws for teenagers seeking abortions, you may feel hard-pressed to admit that many women in their early 3 is are a few years shy of emotional maturity.

Among the most honest women I interviewed for this piece was Marie C Wilson, president of the Ms Foundation for Women, who related her experiences, early in her career, as a lobbyist for liberal causes in the Iowa legislature. "I knew how to talk about the kinds of emissions standards I wanted for Iowa companies, and what kind of childcare standards I wanted for the children of Iowa, and... Rould you please move your hand?... And most times I didn't get the emissions standards or the childcare. Now," she says of Clinton's presidency, "I've gotten emissions standards, and I've got better childcare, and I've still got the hand. But that's better than the other way."

A very few women were willing to make this argument directly: that feminists could find some honour in making a dispassionate, tough-minded decision that Clinton's value in office outweighs the sordichness of his personal life. But making this argument is something different from simply sweeping his behaviour under the rug; it's the pretence, above all, that does the damage.

And this is why the feminist failure matters. By wishing the problem away, feminists call into question one of their most important victories of the past decades: the hard-won consensus that men should not use social and economic power to recruit sex partners in the workplace, and that it's fair for both sexes to expect limits on how much sexual relations are allowed to distort the system of rewards. I'm talking here not about feminist legislative achievements, but about a shift in the extra-legal realm of mores, the shift that followed and ratified the actual laws against specific forms of sexual harassment.

It's all very well to protest that we shouldn't look to our politicians as role models: the saga of Clinton's sex life is being played out on too large a screen to ignore. You can say until you're blue in the face that public men are entitled to a realm of privacy; that certain kinds of bad private behaviour do not necessarily conflict with political competence, or even genius; and that adultery is not in itself of feminist concern. These are all irrelevancies. This mess is on our hands, and we do not have the luxury of arguing with its existence; the best we can do is call it what it is.

Denial is insidious: if always claims more than you think you have ceded to it." We would not be doing our job if we didn't take into account that this president and his policies are crucial to the lives and welfare of the majority of women in this country." Gloria Steinem assures me. "That's not bending over backwards: that's being sensible. Having said that, if Clinton had raped women, beaten up Hillary – real private sins would not be forgiven, no matter what the value of the public behaviour."

There it is, fellas, in case you're still confused: it seems we just lowered the bar.

The full text of this anicle will appear in the May issue of Vanity Fair. out in the UK from Wednesday, 8 April.

Power of the spoken word

Watching Peter Ackroyd read from his new work on Sir Thomas More is an experience in itself, says Michael Glover

tional trajectory of any human life! How subject to change and mutability! These ponderous Elizabethan thoughts flashed like a shooting star through my mind in the basement at Waterstone's, Camden Town, last night, as I observed the mood of that cheerleader of the cocknev visionaries. Peter Ackroyd, shift from near-Stygian gloom to one of unabashed hilarity within the space of one brief hour of our life on this earth.

Ackroyd was sitting wedged between "Popular Psychology"

When he laughs, he weaves his body sideways, as if wishing to get rid of it

and "Pregnancy and Child Care on a precarious-looking, fold-up chair of the kind that a man may choose to sit on when, frankly, there is no serious alternative. Directly in front of him sat a small, yet eager and discerning audience listening to him read from the final pages of his doleful, freshpublished life of Sir Thomas More. Among those closest to him was the young Frenchman whose chair would collapse beneath him during question time, throwing him to the ground. He had not read a word by Ackroyd until that point.

It had been a miserable end - Sir Thomas More's, that is -

'David Calder's

him as one of

outstanding'

THE MERCHANT

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the great

Sunday Times

Prospero confirms

Shakespearians...

HOW WAYWARD is the emo- and it was miserably, lispingly told, with Ackroyd dwagging and wenching out the words as if they had the dead weight of to his ankles. It was not so much the death itself as the manner of the dying. Though disembowelment was avoided thanks to More's faithful services to the King, there was still the unpardonably uncomfortable business of having to lay one's head down on that heap of straw, stay perfectly still for a second or two while the executioner stifled a yawn, and, later, suffer the indignity of having others gawp at it. freshly boiled, and stuck up there on a pole as a public warning.

Ackroyd does not much enjoy reading his own words, but he gave his all in the greater interests of bookselling. Curiously enough, he doesn't even have an interest in his books' subjects once they are written. He bids them adieu with a great sigh of relief. The excitement is all in the writing, which he does in longhand, because the touch of pen on paper, and the drooling flow of the ink, give him some sort of kinship with the page, investing the act itself with a rare, imaginative energy that would be wholly lacking if he were communing with some goddamn soulless machine. Fortunately, the words are often worthy of this level of emotional investment.

Then came a period of frank discussion, and it was at this point that Ackroyd, who had throughout the reading from his own deathless prose been staring into the middle distance with a strange look of misty disengagement (was he perhaps ruminating upon some

THE TEMPEST RSC

"Unmissable" Sunday Times

TWELFTH NIGHT

argst the best

Violas I have seen

Helen Schlesin

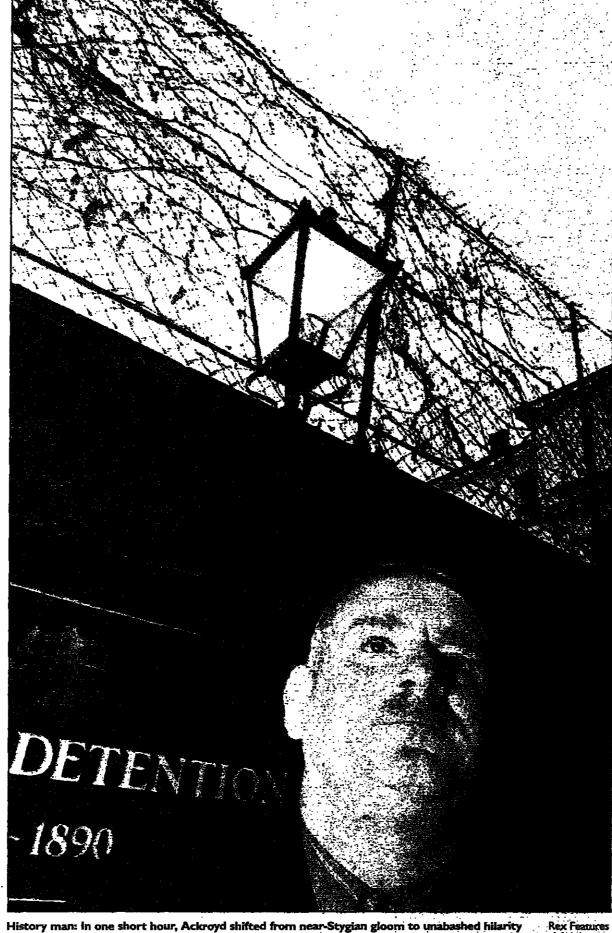
MUCH ADO

ABOUT NOTHING

Magic...Michael Boyd's

brilliantly imaginative

Barbican Centre



work in progress. Fiction? Biography? That customary, artful mingling of the two? Or something yet bolder still?), was shocked into a true engagement with life by that unfortunate accident.

Yes, when the Frenchman fell off the chair, a great whoop of laughter went up - and Ackroyd's contribution was the most heartfelt, the most vigorous, of us all. When Ackroyd laughs, he heaves his small,

'Adrian Noble's

dream-like

production

is fresh,

lucid and

authoritative' Independent on Sunday

CYMBELINE

by William Shakespear

'Adrian Nobie's

production has

'RSC Major Succes

stamped all over it

THIS PRODUCTION IS SUPPORTED BY RICE PATRONS

bulky body sideways as if wishing to get rid of it altogether. The Frenchman picked himself up. Ackroyd mumbled a few hollowish words of commiseration, slugged at his glass of white wine, lit a fag, crossed his legs, and everything lightened and loosened.

The audience, wishing to be helpful, suggested a few people whom he might wish to write biographies of - such as Bacon. Ackroyd wondered

pher or the dauber. The dauber. Ackroyd scoffed, There were And anyway, he was hearthly sick of biography-making - there look positively chipper. "I'd were far too many of those great, fat tomes being heaved like so many house bricks across the Atlantic.

No, he wanted to be into something different; he wanted to go in for a bit of mouldbreaking - by writing a history

whether that meant the philoso- of the English imagination, for example. What about JMW Turner then? Someone else more, in fact, it made his never flirt with Turner," he said, "He was far too short. In fact, I don't flirt with people living or dead." Then he gave another of those great, bodyjolting laughs, and the cigarette smoke came dragon-snorting down his nostrils.

Oh what a lovely coup for Milton Keynes

- National Theatre at Milton Keynes

WOULD anyone in his right mind want to spend a rainswept evening in a tent on a hill in Milton Keynes? It's a taste, you would have mought, likely to be confined to the odd Milton Keynsian crazed with nostalgia for his Scout days, On Thursday, though, a capacity andience gathered in a custom-built Big Top in this wondrous spot for the official premiere of the 1998 National Theatre Mobile production - Oh What A Lovely War - directed by Fiona Laird.

To get Joan Littlewood from whose fabled Theatre Workshop this collaboratively-evolved musical about the horrors and futility of the First World War sprang in the 1960s - even this close to the National, has required the trickiest and most tactful feats of diplomacy. Littlewood anathematises institutions she regards as middleclass and monolithic and when she granted Laird the performance rights to the show, it was stipulated that the National, the RSC and the West Yorkshire Playhouse were no-go areas.

Laird's Oh What A Lovely War is a National Theatre production that will never go inside the National Theatre building (its London venue is in Bernie Spain Gardens, Oxo Tower Wharf)

The roving Big Top idea is cogent both on ideological grounds (community outreach being very much in the aesthetic ones (a glittery circus atmosphere should work

well for a show that depends upon the bracing clash netween the borrific content and the end-of-the-pier style Pierrot presentation). In the event, though, for me, the jurispositions failed to be jarring enough in this production, it offers a "good night out" in altogether too con-

ventional a sense. I overheard a young man in the interval saying that on, I was just in bits". He was referring to the rather wellhandled sad/comic Christmas fraternisation seeme between the two sides, but here the production was allowing him and others to indulge in a sort of comfortable sentimentality, whereas this is a show whose very British twist on the Brechtian should inspire a less luxuriating pity.

Some of the cartoon-like sketches (international arms manufacturers imagined anmilitating innocent bird life at a grouse-shooting party) have the right grotesque attack. But, in general, the vital balance between the documentary aspects (the appalling statistics that slide past on a news panel; the photographic images of trench warfare) and the song and dance performance elements feel skewed in favour. of the latter. In some sense, the Real War gets upstaged. A showbiz slickness has a tendency to creep into areas where roughness would be

There are moments of very affecting, unmilked simplicity in this production, but the overall effect is too Littlewood spirit) and on professionally "feel-good".

Paul Taylor

in G. Mi



Affecting: David Grant (left), Karl Morgan and David Birrell in Oh What a Lovely War Nobby Clark

They have ways of not making you laugh

Quatsch in Store German comedians at the Comedy Store

WHEN I told people I was going to the Comedy Store to watch an evening of German comedy, they said: "There's German comedy?" The alacrity of the response told me this was more than incredulity; this was outrage, of the "We make the jokes round here thank you"

We do not believe Germans have a sense of humour, and if they do, it shouldn't be allowed. It doesn't fit their stereotype, and it offends ours. It's our job to find the world funny, larky and ironical. It's their job to do things thoroughly. We

THERE'S something of a pre-

make fun: they make Audis. It's somewhere in the United Nations Charter small print. The very pairing of the words "German" and "humour" seems so outrageous that you wonder if it isn't all an elaborate joke.

Well, sad to say, there is such

thing as German comedy, though only Germans understand it. Whether it is funny or not is still open to debate, as Thomas Hermanns, Lutz von Rosenberg Lipinsky, Detlef Winterberg and Django Asul, the four male comedians brought over here by Quatsch (Germany's first and only comedy club, on Hamburg's Reeperbahn), took the precaution of performing their material in a language not

think this would matter, as much British stand-up can be understood simply by knowing the words for certain bodily parts. Also, my German vocabulary includes the phrases vorsprung durch technik, Englander, for you ze var is over DAKA-DAKA!!! and kinder, kirche und küche, so I thought I would be able to appreciate the essence of German comedy. I was over-optimistic.

I can though, without prejudice, make one or two empirical observations. The first is that there was a stretch Mercedes parked outside, an accessory most British comedians

I was unable to grasp an entire

widely understood. I didn't south of Bernard Manning if they were faced with a heckwould find quite alien, if not ler, when the English sound The second is that the

evening was civilised to the point of seriousness. Unlike English comedians, these looked as though they had washed properly and their clothes were sound. Also they didn't swear. Either that or they swore all the time: it was impossible to tell. The mostly German audience behaved itself and laughed respectfully in all the right places. There was none of the saam und drang typical of British stand-up events; no bastard at the back shouting "Die, fuckwit!".

I had just started to wonder what the performers would do

man started talking loudly to his mate in the sound box. The performer did nothing, but the audience turned as one and frowned. This is how Germans deal with hecklers.

German humour may appear harmless, but it could set a worrying precedent. In time Belgians, Danes and Luxembourgians may think they're funny too. And the next thing you know we'll have an EU joke mountain, an international embarrassment which no number of goodwill convoys to the unhappy people of Ethiopia will be able to reduce.

Martin Plimmer

THE WEEK IN RADIO ROBERT HANKS

apocalyptic feel about Radio 4 as the station prepares for the big turnaround by offering the lucky listener the chance to surthe Leviathan inside which I am vey past glories (i.e. they've now sitting is in motion, and stuffed the schedules with resome people are prone to cutpeats). Across this hush floats tural travel sickness"; but there was enough sceptical irony in the central argument of this week's Analysis (Radio 4. Thursday): is culture "dumbing down", or is it just that knowledge is more widely available? David Walker's ferreting through this warren of a theme was timely enough to make you wonder if there had been some Machiavellian thinking behind this piece of scheduling - James Boyle hoping to sow enough doubt and confusion among his critics to frustrate any fullfrontal attack. Walker did indeed moot the

this formulation to make you think he wasn't a wholehearted subscriber. The academic and critic Marilyo Butler argued ersuasively that encouraging children to think and talk might mean sacrificing something in the way of "correctness", but the price was well worth paying, and others pointed out that talk of high intellectual standards can be the cover for unpleasantly undemocratic attitudes. But sensible and sympathetic thinking was yoked to grossly obvious inverted snobbery and

half-baked populism - David

Elstein, head of Channel 5, suggested that the educated know least about what television can do (presumably Channel 5's schedules are arranged over high table at All Souls).

The real conflict here. though, was not between high and low or dumb and clever, but between tradition and modernity. The line taken by Nicholas Kenyon, controller of Radio 3. seemed to be that we shouldn't let the past keep peering over our shoulders.

Still, tradition can never be stamped out. When the new Radio 4 schedules get started on Monday, however wondrous will complain to Chris Dunkley on Feedback, as their forefathers did before them. It sort of makes your proud, doesn't it? Meanwhile, while we're talk-

ing about declining standards. you have to wonder what kind of society condones series like The Hard Men (Radio 5, Monday), a celebration of what's enphemistically called "the physical side" of football. In the

Tommy Smith explained that only half a dozen times has be gone in to hurt somebody, and he still has nightmares about it. But you'll be glad to know that, for all-his guilt, he can manage to laugh heartily when describing how he butted a German player who giggled at him. A heartwarming tale of adfirst programme, Liverpool's versity overcome, really.





idea that if Radio 4 gets a lot

of flak, "all it will mean is that

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Morris Cox

east London, a small book office table. printed on and bound in Japanese papers. An Impression of Winter: a landscape panorama, in an edition of 100 copies, sold through the specialist bookseller Bertram Rota's catalogue for £2. Three further seasons followed within a year. The set of four is now usually priced at

This success by acclamation was of no profit to Cox, in fact it was a worry to him. He had won a place at West Ham School of Art in 1916, when he was 13. Six years later, solidly trained in drawing, painting, art crafts and, perhaps most importantly, in English literature, he set out to dedicate his life to his art. He drew for advertising agencies, designed book-jackets, for a year ran a shop in Sicilian office photocopier. Among culture of ordinary people, the Avenue, off Holborn in London, selling his work, and he wrote prolifically.

Though the Second World War, when he was team leader in the Civil Defence Light Rescue Service through the Blitz and the buzz-bombs, destroyed his hopes of a professional career as a published author, he never swerved or gave up on his dedication. Of his lifework of version was dictated, to Morris's over 70 books, all but one - The



IN 1965 Morris Cox, then aged Whirligig and other poems (pub-purely literary (no illustrations)

an ultra-simple, one-man af- Farringdon Road. fair". The first 30 Gogmagog books (Winter was the 13th) have style and perfection and sometimes a unique beauty. fluence, with Max Ernst and handset, printed, often experi- Picasso, on his painting and ilmentally, with coloured illus- lustration. His literary influinspired but always modest deeper. Gog and Magog of and workmanlike bindings (he course are the twin protectors liked to use dress materials, of London, still to be seen at silks from South Africa, Japanese or Indian papers), a shelf of wicker figures were paraded Gogmagog books is a joy to with eyes that swivelled and gogbehold; there is such energy gled. There was also a tradition and life.

When, in 1982, Cox no longer had strength for manual presswork, he produced a further 35 or so books on a small these, three novels stand out, re- wit of their jokes and stories, produced from original 1930s which are so easily dismissed as typescripts. The Excursion, subtitled "A Record of a Youthful Day Out in the Reign of George V", records a nonconformist church day trip by rail to the seaside. It has its origins in a diary, to capture the authentic idiom of East End teachers, parents and children, an early (1928) friend, later his wife, Wyn Cresswell. The 1985 photocopy edition, of five copies only, reproduces an early-Thirties text gog, a selection of the poems. tidied for a publisher but

never used. in 1931, revised in 1935 and also personal collection of his work issued - in an edition of five was presented to the Victoria copies - not until 1985, is again and Albert Museum, who set in London (where Morris mounted a small but memospent his entire life) and haunts rable exhibition in his honour. the imagination of the reader with the love of Ernest Galloway 1984) is an amazing creation, a London 31 March 1998.

62, designed, made and print-lished by Routledge & Kegan collage unti-novel of 225 pages. ed at his private press, the Paul in 1954) - were produced literally cut and pasted in a few Gogmagog Press, in Stratford, at home in a small room on an obsessed weeks in 1938, phrase on phrase, from Sunday School He established the Gogma- prize books, then to be had 10 gog Press in 1957, "essentially a penny from the barrows on

Also from Parringdon Road in the Thirties, Morris collected Japanese prints, a major intrations. In their inventive and ences were native and much Guildhall. On processions giant of an eye in the back of the head - a cock's eye, maybe cockney's eye, hence cock-eyed.

Cox believed passionately in the intellectual quality of the superstitions. He followed his sources back through nursery rhyme, parlour songs, Punch and Judy, ballads, to Chaucer and Gawain. The reference title for these explorations would probably be Harold Bayley's Archaic England (1919).

Thanks to the championship of David Chambers, the Private Libraries Association in 1991 published a complete and fairly splendid volume, Gogmawith biographical and technical notes and a full bibliography. Lil Lilla Beloved, completed Shortly after this. Morris's Alan Tucker

SWEETS TO THE SWEET

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cokernut	cares	chinese
kisses	dentures	figs

'Sweets to the Sweet', from Cox's Poems 1970-1971 (Gogmagog Press, 1972): all but one of his 70 books were produced at home in a small room on an office table

for his illegitimate daughter, Morris George Cox, writer, poet and a drama of wish-fulfilment. printer: born London 3 May 1903; March Demon (five copies, married 1940 Wyn Cresswell; died

Alan G. Melville

as a conductor and choose mass remained to finish schooling af London streets, gained while en trust shown by the ever- Daily Service.

lish opera. That he made no little impact can be measured by the fact that Britten insisted that Mehille fulfil a similar role for the recording of excerpts made for EMI in 1948, even though the BBC Theatre Chorus had been employed for the job. This in turn opened the way for Melville's career at the BBC. which lasted from 1950 until his

from the writer Alan Melville. Born at Leatherhead in Surrey in 1911, Melville was found to possess perfect pitch while still in short trousers, and duly fire service in London. In later became a chorister at Mag- years, he was renowned for an Melville: unsung hero

His was the job, as chorus of Rutland Boughton's legmuster, of convincing a some- endary music drama The Imtimes moodily reluctant Sadler's monal Hour. In 1925, drugged Wells chorus that Grimes was like so many by the work's not only singable, but an im- heady charms, he sang as a choportant new departure in Eng- rus member at Boughton's Glastonbury Festival. In the late 1920s, he went up

to the Royal College of Music to study conducting and piano. Here he came into contact with the precocious young Britten, and also met his future first wife, the planist Madeline Moody. To beat off the competition for her hand in marriage, he risked the uncertainties of war by returaretirement in 1971, during ing in 1939 from a teaching post which time his middle initial was at Geelong Grammar School in required to distinguish him Australia. Classed as physically unfit for military action, he still faced acute danger on a nightly basis during the Second World War as a member of the

Opera, in time to throw himself into the Peter Grimes premiere in June 1945. With orchestral rehearsals at a premium, Melville played the entire opera through on the piano to reassure the conductor, Reginald Goodall. Later that year, Melville joined the company on its two-month



The Rape of Lucretia by Britten's English Opera Group.

In 1950, Melville joined the

BBC as one of three assistant opera chorus masters under Leslie Woodgate, although job description in 1952 when the BBC closed its specialist opera unit. The 1950s none the less brought many opportunities to prepare the professional BBC Chorus (forerunner of today's BBC Singers) for opera broadcasts, as well as oratorio. The undoubted highlight was the work for a Royal Festival Hall performance of Stravinsky's Ocdipus Rex under the composer's direction in 1959, Jean Cocteau appearing as narrator. Other BBC work embraced all manner of reportoire destined, for example, for the Proms and Friday Night is Music Night. in

which Melville often conduct-

ALAN G. MELVILLE's career dalen College, Oxford, where he encyclopicalist throwledge of four of occupied Germany. The editerns on air, as he did for the

it was - a bone of contention. recognition came for Melville in the shape of invitations from the conductors Antal Dorati and Sir John Barbirolli to produce a "opera" was dropped from the number of their commercial recordings in the 1950s - both having been impressed by his BBC work.

Melville remained an unsung hero, although in the 1960s there were more opportunities to conduct works in concert for the BBC - for example, the first broadcast of William Walton's Missa Brevis, the premiere of Humphrey Searle's Song of the Sun at the Cheltenham Festival. and a programme of Tippett choral music for the composer's 60th birthday in 1965. Away from the BBC Melville conducted amateur choruses (among them the Board of Trade Choir), occasionally in

collaboration with the Rosebery Orchestra, which was founded

er years brought him full circle to the work that first fired his imagination. In 1983 he conducted the first complete recording of The Immortal Hour. following it 10 years later with Boughton's choral drama Bethlehem. Pater Grimes remained an emotional touchstone - only recently he sat enthralled by a live radio relay of a production at the Met in New York.

Alan George Melville, chorus master and conductor: born Leatherhead, Surrey 29 June 1911; music teacher, Geelong Grammar School, Melbourne 1935-38; chorus master, Sadier's Wells Opera Company 1945-48; assistant chorus master, BBC Chorus 1950-71; married 1939 Madeline Moody (died 1982; one son, one daughter), 1984 Mollie Brazil: died Bath 1 March 1998.

Bella Abzug

flamboyant Bella Abzug, radi- han, her activism did not falter. cal liberal, civil rights cam-House of Representatives.

She was born Bella Savitsky into the Bronx of 1920, the daughter of a Russian immigrant, Emmanuel Savitsky, who owned the Live and Let Live in Manhattan. She showed her zest for politics from an early age, as a Zionist activist and president of her college student council.

By 1947 she was a lawyer specialising in labour law and civil rights, often working probono. One such case carned world-wide attention - that of Willie McGee, a young Missis- dressing food production execsippi black sentenced to death utives, and professed himself for raping a white woman. Abzug fought in vain for two years having Bella Abzug running to save him from the electric chair; he was executed in 1951.

She defended victims of Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist witch-hunts, and helped draft legislation for the 1954 Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As the Vietnam war widened, she had become a peace activist, describing compulsory military service as "slavery." She led the "Dump Johnson" movement within the Democratic Party, and supported the quixotic 1968 presidential bid of Eugene Mc-Carthy. By then it was inevitable she would run for Congress in her own right.

Her successful 1970 campaign for the 19th district, covering lower Manhattan and much of the wealthy Upper West Side, entered New York's political folklore. No one made copy like Bella Abzug. The city's tabloids dubbed her "Battling Bella" and "Hurricane Bella". Her voice was a weapon on its own, a rasping Bronx accent that could take the scale off a kettle. From beneath her habitual broad-brimmed flowerpatterned hat, she could spew profamities like a Gatling gun. This Woman Belongs in the House" was her slogan. But the pyrotechnics were only a warmup for when she got there.

On her first day on Capitol ter stretched for over 60 years for his voice broke. A lifelong and be played an appropriate description of the war, in him invitations to train the manded that Woodgate was all in retirement he set up the in him invitations to train the manded that Woodgate was all in retirement he set up the ways accredited as chorus for Glyndebourne pro
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Note to blaze after blaze. Fastidious Britten then brought by his daughter, Clarissa. In retirement he set up the ways accredited as chorus for Glyndebourne proten's order a Peter Crimes in 1945. Tended London performances rus master at Sadler's Wells ductions of Albert Herring and master whoever had done the give assistance to young singers. from Vietnam by the following of the Atlantic, Bella Abzugwas Independence Day. She emerged that evening to a rousing reception from a Harlem youth group on the Capitol steps: "Give 'em hella, Bella," She would do precisely that for the next six years, promoting measures on gay rights and discrimination against women, and cunningly using a procedural tactic to force the Nixon administration to hand over the Pen-

NEW YORK politicians, like tagon Papers in 1971. Though their city, have a way of at- her legislative career ended in tracting attention. Few, though. 1977, with a losing Senate race ever garnered as much as the against Daniel Patrick Moyni-

Almost until the very end of paigner, feminist and the first her life, she fought for women's Jewish woman ever to sit in the causes, founding the International Women's Environment and Development Association and getting herself sacked from President Carter's Advisory Committee on Women, for insubordination. Wild horses Meat Market on Ninth Avenue would not have kept her from the UN World Conference on Women in Peking three years ago, although by then she was confined to a wheelchair.

That provoked her last exchange with presidential (or rather ex-presidential) authority. George Bush happened to be in town at the same time, ad-"kinda sorry for the Chinese around". The lady herself shot back in magnificent vein: "He was talking to a fertiliser group? That's appropriate."



She revelled in her role. "I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prize fighter, Mother Courage, a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy." she wrote in her 1972 autobiography Bella! "They say I'm impatient, impetuous, appity, rude, profane. brash and overbearing." Then came the crucial and often overlooked rider, "But whatever I am, I'm a very serious woman."

And she was. She was an early exponent of women's rights whose alleged excesses, far from being counterproductive. as her foes would claim, notably demanding federally financed. 24-hour centres back in 1971, Behind that strident façade, she was a woman ahead of her time

Rupert Cornwell

Bella Savitsky, politician and feminist: born New York 24 July 1920; member of the US House of Representatives 1970-76; married 1945 Martin Abzug (died 1986: two daughters): died New York 31 March 1998.

Kenneth Monkman

ton Hall), not 1946, and it was livit could not have been in 1959.

MUST correct some serious - not until 1964 (when our son errors in your obituary of Ken- Francis was 15 years of age) that neth Monkman [by Nicolas I started proceedings for di-Barker, 26 March] relating to vorce. I feel it is open to quesmyself, writes Vita Marr (nee tion whether a 20-year marriage Duncombe Mann - not Duncan). can justly be described as brief. Kenneth Monkman and I I do not know when my exwere married in 1945 (at Cax- husband remarried, but clear-

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriann) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld SDL, telephoned to 071-273 2011 or forced to 0721-273 2011 or forced to 0721-273 2011 or forced to 0721-273 2010. faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Rebecca Drew. Hats (i): Rubens, Portran of Susunna Lunden? ("Le Chapeau de Paille")". Victoria and Albert Museum

Emma Laylor, "20th-Century Embroidery", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradhury, Past, Present and Future in One

Work". 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Douglas and Thomas Verrait, "Edmund Gosse: father and son readings from Gosse's account of his relationship with his father Philip". 3pm.

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twoking Common Tate on Doda and Surrealism, 4pm. National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb. "Three Contemporary Theatrical Dames (i): Judi Dench", 3pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Fire 2044. EPERAPASE FIRE 4 : 59
The Desir of York to his upons an emblation of effectives from the Royal Limits. Wanton Castle. B Year Columb. Barans. The Principal Royal and a reday frames. How from Royal winds granted the Great National and opens the new Againet Stand at Austree Respectation.

the new Againet States of Changing of the Guard
TORAN The Reservable County Mounted Registrate strains in the America Law Partial County Mounted Registrate strains in 187 Horsaften Welde Guarda Chanda, "Tame: 187 Horsaften Welde Guarda Chanda, "The County States of Chanda Ch

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Jonathan Agnew, crick-et commentator, 38; Mr Peter Attenborough, former Headmaster, Charterhouse school, 60; Sir John Beith, former diplomat, 84: Mr Paul Downton, cricketer, 41; Mrs Margaret Dupont, former tennis cham-pion, 80; Dr Christopher Fay. chairman and chief executive, Shell UK, 53; Brigadier Anne Field, for-mer Deputy Controller Comman-dant, WRACS. 72; Mr Jim Fitzpatrick MP, 46; Mr Trevor Griffiths, playwright, 63; Mr Jeremy Hands, television reporter, 47; Mr Dave Hill, rock guitarist, 46; Earl Jellicoe, President, Royal Geographical Society, 80; Miss Frances Lan singer and actress, 85; Mr Nick Mc-Carthy, High Commissioner to Cameroon and ambassador to Gabon, 60; Professor David Melville. chief executive, Further Education Funding Council for England, 55; Mr Barry Reamsbottom, Joint General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union, 49; Mr Ian Robertson, Director, National Army Museum, 55; Mr Dave Sexton, football manager, 68; Dame Catherine Tizard.

TOMORROW: Professor John Albery former Master, University College, Oxford, 62, Vice-Admiral Sir Neil Anderson, former Chief of Defence Staff (New Zealand), 71; Miss Jane Asher, actress, 52; Mr Michael Bryant, actor, 70: Mr Roger Corman. film director and producer, 72; Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Aiteryn, 82; Miss Agnetha Fäliskog. singer, 48; Mr Tom Finney, footballer, 70; Lord Gilbert, Minister for Defence Procurement, 71; Mr Arthur Halley, writer, 78; Mr Nigel Hawthome, actor, 69; Sir Douglas Healey, former Auditor-General, 79; Professor Roman Herzog, President of Germany, 64; Professor Denis Lawton, Chairman, Joint Council

former Governor-General of New Zealand, 67; Mr Rudolph Vis MP, 57.

for the General Certificate of Edu-cation, 67; Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, former Chief of Naval Personnel, 62: Professor Donald Lynden Bell, astronomer, 63: Professor Peter Moore, former Principal, London sess School, 70; Lord Orme, former MP, 75; Mr Ian Pearson MP, 39; Mr Gregory Peck, actor, 82; General Colin Powell, former Chairman, American Joint Chiefs of Staff, 61; Miss Anne Scott-James, writer and iournalist, 85,

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Grinling Gibbons sculptor and woodcarver, 164% Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield) rhythm and blues singer, 1915. Deaths: Oliver Goldsmith, play-wright, 1774; Martin Luther King. clergyman and civil rights cam-paigner, assassinated 1968; Gloria Swanson, actress, 1983. On this day: Francis Drake completed his circumnavigation of the world and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I, 1581; a Chinese republic was proclaimed in Tibet, 1912. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Agathopus and Theodulus. St Benedict the Black, St Isidore of Seville, St Plato and St Tigernach.

TOMORROW: Births: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, 1588; Giovanni Giacomo Casanova, Chevalier de Seingalt, lover and adventurer, 1724; Bette Davis, actress, 1908. Deaths: Howard Robard Hughes. aviator, industrialist and film producer, 1976: Chiang Kai-shek, statesman and soldier, 1975; Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Travers Harris Bt. former chief of Bomber Command, 1984. On this day: Oscar Wilde was arrested for offences committed with Lord Alfred Douglas, 1895. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Albett of Montecorvino. St Derfel-Gadarn, St Ethelburga of Lyminge, St Gerald of Sauve-Majeure and St

FAITH & REASON

The soul is coming back into science

New ideas about consciousness have sent modern thinkers back to some old ideas, writes Andrew Brown.

WHAT is the distinction between an eternal and an immortal soul? One answer seems to be that, east of the Oder-Niesse line, they're still immortal. Western Christians will settle for eternity. This all matters because the soul is coming back into science: a statement which is a lot less mystical than it can sound.

The dominant intellectual current in the scientific world at the moment is one of confidence that there are enough grand principles and cute technologies around to explain anything, including consciousness and the soul. A lot of this current is aggressively atheistic. Nick Humphrey, the author of one of the earliest current theories of how consciousness might have evolved, has argued that the state should prevent parents from teaching their children religious beliefs that he finds abhorrent, and written a book dismissing Jesus as a sort of conjuror.

Against this, religions of all sorts ever much of the rest of his theories science will never explain the soul. The other is to get there first, and defend their territories on whatever will be found. The omens for the first plan do not look good. It concedes, for one thing, the idea that religion is there to explain the things that science can't. which leaves a remarkably passive and insecure position from which to await developments.

The assumption will rapidly grow that scientific knowledge is the only sort that is reliable, and the only sort capable of growth. In fact that is pretty much what has already happened in popular culture - except that large swamps of bottomiess credulity have also appeared there, in which strange monsters roam, devouring science and religion with equal voracity.

The idea that the soul is a kind of necessary cognitive illusion, a trick of perception like the illusions that allow us - or compel us - to see a succession of still pictures as a river of seamless movement across a screen might seem like the ultimate triumph of science against this first strategy. It dates back at least to Freud, who saw religion as rooted in the natural inadequacies of human perception, so that we mistake our parents for cosmic principles. How- conduct except on the basis that con-

have two strategies. One is to hope that have been discarded, this has stayed alive in the popular imagination. But actually it is much older than that; and in this fact lies at least one route for religion to occupy the high ground before the troops of science get there. The idea that our pictures of God

get in the way of reality is not just scientific. It is central to any developed religion. In fact it might serve as the test to distinguish "higher" from "lower" religions. Even the idea that our pictures of God obscure the fact that there is no reality behind them is hardly original to Freud: it seems to be the central insight of Buddhism. Either way, this means that some very smart people have from which they arise, even if they been thinking about these problems for several millennia before the scientists started; and they have been doing so using the most important equipment that anyone can have in investigating these questions: their own minds and experiences. This claim that our own experiences are irreducible and cannot be explained away in terms of lowerlevel happenings is the central plank of any defence that religion (and philos- eternal soul will do instead an immorophy) can hope to mount against the barbarians at their gates.

I think it's defensible. The scientific study of consciousness is hard to

sciousness matters; that our experiences of the world are not just byproducts of the workings of our brain, but in many respects the point of these workings, and the only way to understand them. In other words. I don't think you can try to fit the soul into a scientific world view without conceding that you are trying to fit in something more than an optical illusion.

The concept of a soul or spirit which is at least as widespread as an incest taboo - represents at the very least the autonomy and unpredictability of other human beings; and these qualities are real. They cannot be reduced to the chemical and electrical reactions cannot survive without it. There is, however, a price to be paid

for defining the soul as an emergent property. A soul like that can die. In fact, it cannot be immortal, since the things and processes from which it emerges are not immortal either. This brings us back to the Oder-Niesse line. On this side of the line, the subtle theologians have determined that an tal one. It can return to God in timelessness, when all its time-bound constituents fail. Whether such a soul will be much use in battles fought on earth is quite another matter.

INDEPENDE

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Time to surrender the old hatreds

TO ECHO Tony Blair's words about the Northern Ireland peace process we remain "cautiously, stubbornly optimistic". Of course, there are big questions that still need to be resolved as we enter the endgame. The powers of the new North-South body are especially troublesome. But we suspect that the momentum and will for peace are now too great to be defeated. It is at this point, when the peace process becomes a peace settlement, that it will move into its most dangerous phase.

We worry about the response of the Provisional IRA. It may well be that they ultimately find the deal unacceptable. The new arrangements will. after all, be unlikely to deliver a 32-county united Ireland even on a distant horizon. Hardline republicans, then, might not give up, but, as in the past, respond by changing their tactics. How? Consider the assessment of the ex-IRA man Sean O Callaghan, who told the BBC Today programme that the IRA's future strategy would revolve around "the politics of tension". As he put it: "You will get enough violence to make you aware of their presence and their capability and enough to keep Northern Ireland in a constant state of unease.

What will not change is their opportunism. The IRA long ago arrogated to itself the right to be the sole "protector" of the nationalist community. It did this by ruthlessly exploiting real and imagined grievances. As we approach the Ulster marching season, it must not now be granted new tensions to capitalise on.

The decision of the independent Commission on Parades to prevent the Apprentice Boys from marching in the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast should be respected. As the chairman of the Commission. Alistair Graham, said: "Our view is that the best way forward in terms of relieving inter-community tensions arising from disputes at this location is that the ground should be prepared for one or more parades to take place in a peaceful atmosphere". He is right. A Unionist spokesman recently said: "The Orangemen didn't walk their traditional routes last year in the interests of the greater good but there has been no good faith shown to the Unionist community by the Government." Whether or not the British government has treated them badly the greater good has not gone away. Mo Mowlam should uphold the Commission's judgement against appeals by the loyalists.

In fact the British and Irish governments and Northern Irish politicians themselves have served their peoples during this peace process very well. But priceless though their work and the efforts of bodies like the Commission on Parades is, we are still waiting for an adequate response from the Orange movement. They fail to see that unless they respond there will be plenty of less triumphal anniversaries for them and their children and their grandchildren to mark. They need to think the unthinkable. They must emasculate their own ways. They must see how much more hope there would be if the Orange marches were sanitised, filleted of political meaning and could be made as harmless and empty of offence as other charming customs whose origins are lost in time, like morris dancing, the State Opening of Parliament or the persecution of Peter Mandelson.

We are not so naive as to think that it would be easy to persuade the chaps whose catchphrase is "No Surrender" immediately to start skipping down the Falls Road with little bells tied to their bowlers and the customary "serious clashes" confined to their brollies. We also know that you cannot wish away historical hatreds. The fate of the former Yugoslavia shows that conflict can be cryogenically preserved for centuries, and quickly and easily re-



vitalised. (The current conflict in the Kosovo region rests on the mystical importance of a bartle that took place there in 1389). But what one could call the "folksification" of Ulster's sectarian traditions cannot start soon enough.

Of course our modest proposal will not be taken up by the "loyal brethren" who will fight for their "civil rights". So as a last indulgence let us celebrate a different anniversary. Twenty-five years ago Ulster politicians and the British and Irish governments signed the Sunningdale agreement. This set up a Northern Ireland power-sharing executive and a PR assembly, and made provision for a cross-border body (the "Council of Ireland"). It was soon brought down by the actions of hardline grassroots activists and an upsurge in sectarian violence. There was little that the Army or the British or Irish government could do. It was, until now, the end of self-government for the province. This settlement will be superior. It will, through the twin referendums on both sides of the border, be more legitimate. This time, we hope, the "grass-roots" will be more supportive and not give the hard men their chance to wreck the settlement. They could start by leaving the sashes their fathers wore at home this year.

An amusing little concoction

HERE IS a story to cheer anyone who has plumped blindly for the thirdcheapest wine on the list, and nodded knowingly at the pleasant yet entirely unexpected taste when asked to sample it. Edward Jeffries was fined £4.750 under the Trades Descriptions Act this week for selling wine from a kit as "estate grown" on his Cornish vineyard. That's right, a Cornish vineyard. Suspicion about the feasibility of such a project - it turns out you can't grow grapes in those parts - prompted trading standards officers to investigate this appellation incontrolée. It turned out Mr Jeffries had resorted to a do-it-yourself wine-making kit, added sugar and water, and sold the results for upwards of £5 a bottle.

Now, most of us have no idea what English wine is supposed to taste like. beyond a vague folk memory of something undrinkable called Concord in the Seventies. Many of us, in truth, would have difficulty telling a Chilean Merlot from a tin of boot polish. As long as Chateau Jeffries used goodquality kits, everyone was happy. Especially Mr Jeffries, making a £30,000a-year profit from following simple instructions and sticking on bogus labels.

Even the prosecution had to admit to Falmouth magistrates: "People were buying what they had tasted and liked." It seems churlish, then, to complain that the wording on the label did not correspond precisely with the contents. For most people the whole point of drinking is to get away from such unnecessary attention to detail. Another glass anyone?

Ulster's Titanic

THE NORMALLY estimable Robert Fisk writes an interesting article on the symbolism of the Titanic (Comment, 30 march). However he gets one major symbol totally wrong, as did the film.

Titanic was not built by Irishmen. nor is it part of an Irish story. The Titanic was built by Ulstermen, which is what nearly all of them would most vocally have proclaimed. This goes to the heart of what the current, and past, troubles and partition are all about.

The shippards of Belfast were the heartland of Ulster Unionism; sectarian riots from the mid-nineteenth century on almost invariably centred upon workers from the yards (over 95 per cent Protestant).

Ulster was not only Protestant but industrial (the only such part of Ireland) and from the 1860s, when the shipyards of Belfast were founded, this industry depended upon capital, raw materials, skilled labour and markets that lay in Britain and the Empire. Industry needed the Union to survive and prosper, and nothing came to symbolise the equation of Ulster's prosperity, industry and the Union more than the shipyards.

This industrial identity was the very thing that Irish nationalism railed against. It asserted a rural peasant identity. Irish nationalists attacked industrial Ulster as un-Irish. a second-class Lancashire that corrupted Ireland and undermined the noble peasant spirit. This was a common theme of most ethnic nationalisms, and is well illustrated by de Valera's 1937 constitution and his radio homilies on Irish life.

Thus the Titanic symbolised, to Irish nationalists, all that they were fighting against. It symbolised modernity and Britishness, the key to Belfast shipyard workers' identity. Hence the vehemence of Ulster Unionism's rejection of Irish identity and their assertion of their own separate identity and very real interests.

Thus references to the ship being built by Irishmen stand as a symbol of the muddled thinking on Ulster and why the current talks may well fail. For Sinn Fein continues that nationalist tradition of ignoring real differences; hence also its lack of any economic policy that even begins to address the real world. Irish nationalism has never addressed the different economic base of Ulster, although claiming a jurisdiction over it. Tuanic symbolises Ulster's Britishness, that which Irish nationalism would destroy. And this is still a key factor in understanding Northern Ireland. JAMES DINGLEY

Centre for the Study of Conflict University of Ulster Jordanstown

Dangerous database

I WAS appalled to read your report (2 April) about a proposed govern- and used by me at the right time, electronic CV" among my list of ment database holding all educational and other achievements for every citizen in the UK. It terrifies now? me that a scheme like this might suc-

There is an element of windowdressing and deception that goes into a CV, which we all use to our advantage. How many of us have omitted from our CVs a failed GCSE, or a year spent retaking a failed exam, or worse?

A database would record your every success and every failure. It would enable employers to write off job applicants automatically who have experienced some minor check such as an exam failure.

I can see marginal benefits for big business in the use of such a database, but I am worried about those who are then so easily excluded from the chance to present their best features and make a success for themselves in employment. PAUL SERJEANT Maidenhead,

Berkshire

WILL THE planned electronic CV contain "bad" things about me such as a bad reference? Will it not contain my criminal record? Who will

Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. control it? Who will update or ill health, poor education or deprived amend it? Who will decide its for- social backgrounds would be marked

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number

complex a national system will be talitarian ideas. needed to prevent unauthorised ac- KEITH HUTCHINSON London SW14

Protestant bastion: workers at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast in 1954

these issues, do we not end up with CAN I include "writing to The Ina CV written by me, in my style, con- dependent and telling the Governtrolled by me on my own computer ment where they can stick their achievements? when I want to apply for jobs - in other words, just what we have HOWARD INGRAM

Capitalism in China

WORLD leaders attending the Euro-Asian summit in London will, no doubt, reaffirm the superiority of the western economic model of deall those who underachieve through velopment. It is worth noting that

modernisation of the commune sysmat? Who will have access to it? The out permanently. No democracy of tem began in 1978, unemployment has risen inexorably. police, my neighbours? How big and free people should accept such to-Premier Zhu has been praised by

since Deng Xiaoping's reform and

our own Prime Minister for his membership of the "modernisers" club" and unquestionably we owe China a debt of gratitude for not devaluing her currency in the still continuing Asian economic crisis. The internal cost to the Chinese people. however, is considerable. Capital-intensive investment by western companies has skewed development to the coastal enterprise zones, exacerbating tural/urban divisions and is hardly a panacea in a country desperately in need of labour-intensive solutions.

RICHARD DE ZOYSA South Bank University London SEI

Slaves of the screen WHAT IS Tim Hulse talking about? ("A television is for life", 3 April.) I haven't watched television (apart from chance moments in friends' houses, where it always seems to be on) for about two years and yes, dammit, I am a more rounded person for that. Many people I meet express surprise and puzzlement: what do I do with all that time? how do I keep in touch with current affairs? (By reading The Independent, obviously). In my two years of not watching the Devil's Picture Box I have visited places and seen things I never would have had the time to otherwise; yes, read more books; resumed the guitar studied calligraphy; learnt to draw and to play Go: spent many happy hours reading and writing correspondence with friends in this and other countoes; and many other things. There's no Da Vincian conceit here: I don't do any of these things at all well: just at all.

Chickens may like television (actually, according to the researchers involved, they like watching screen savers - flying toasters a favourite), but other studies show that humans watching television eventually have their metabolisms depressed below the level of someone doing absolutely nothing at all. I don't see the advantage. RETH BRATTHWAITE

London SE13

Body of work

I HOPE I can comment on a couple of points in Judith Palmer's supportive piece on The South Bank Show's forthcoming programme on Body Art

There is no "unscreened documentary" on the miners' strike made by Ken Loach. The programme I commissioned and edited was put out on Channel 4.

"Body Art" did not cause LWT executives "a headless panic", it raised valid complex issues which needed time to address.

I cannot imagine that Judith Palmer has been watching The South Bank Show if she thinks it is characterised by Elaine Page, The Bee Gees and Michael Flatley. Some of our recent programmes have featured the artists Gillian Wearing and Gary Hume, John Adams, Saul Zaentz, Beryl Bain-bridge and Nigel Kennedy - this since Christmas.

I think that Dan Wiles' use of the word "obscure" for the excellent programme on Seamus Heaney may have been a touch ironic. MELVYN BRAGG

The South Bank Show London Weekend Television London SE1

Disraeli's loss

ion ("How the Tories could outflank Labour," 31 March) but Donald Macintyre has confused his history. Yes, Disraeli encouraged Derby to pass the Second Reform Act in 1867 but they did not win the next election. Much to Disraeh's irritation Gladstone triumphed in 1868 with a majority of about 110, as against 70 in 1865. Disraeli had to wait for his triumph until 1874. PATRICK DERHAM Solihull, West Midlands

Bearded revolutionaries

YOUR LEADING article (3 April) is quite right to argue that laser technology will not get rid of people's desire to have beards. You are quite wrong to suggest that this is simply a matter of fashion.

There is a fierce battle of class and politics going in this country between clean-shaven revisionists such as Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson, who are continuing their contest as to who can appear the most clean-shaven and those with beards, such as Frank Dobson and Jeremy Corbyn, who stand by the hirsute socialism of Keir Hardie, Marx and Engels. KEITH FLETT

General Secretary Beard Liberation Front London N17

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"They ain't gaffes. They are ideas. If you don't like them, fair enough. If you think they are rubbish, by all means say that they are. But they ain't gaffes." - Tony Banks, sports minister, defending the occasional outbursts which have landed him in trouble

"Handouts are what toffs give to burns on skid row. Handouts are the middle-class's munificence to the poor." - Lord Hattersley, Labour peer, chiding the Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harman, for describing social security payments as handouts.

"This has been a week when the Downing Street press officer, still only a minor figure in world history, was discovered addressing a Secretary of

State in peremptory terms which would have been offensive if used to an office boy. Who does this man Alastair Campbell think he is?" - Lord Rees-Mogg, on Alastair Campbell's chastising memos to Harnet Harman and her debuty Frank Field.

'We have to speak up. It's time for people who care about the arts to stop being so nice." -Deborah Bull, Royal Ballet solo dancer.

"I, for one, will not be worrying much about my microchip-controlled toaster." — Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Cambridge computer scientist, claiming fears about the Millennium Bug are greatly

LETTER from THE EDITOR

cess to it?

PHILIP MORGAN

Winchester

If we successfully address all

THIS IS real 1984 stuff. The pro-

posed electronic curriculum vitae

would tend to stifle the mobility re-

quired in any healthy society since

THIS newspaper is often asked to back causes and sponsor events. 17 per cent of those from semi-skilled and unskilled backgrounds Most of the time we are under no illusion: we are wanted because our name can lend lustre to a pretty dismal occasion. We were delighted, though, to lend our support to two events in the past few days; the alternative Asia-Europe summit of human rights organisations designed to embarrass the gathering of Asian and European leaders in London; and Student Choices, the conference on higher education and the crisis facing students and institutions as they grapple with the fee system. Together they summed up The Independent at its best: ir-

everent; pointed; challenging; sending-up self-importance and highlighting those issues that really matter, such as freedom of expression and access to education.

In the case of the alternative summit, while the leaders posed for pictures and were wined and dined by Tony Blair, we were backing the democracy movements in their countries. At the education conference, I stressed our commitment to higher education - witness our exclusive coverage of the annual UCAS listings of still vacant places on courses. I also listened as Baroness Blackstone, the education minister, gave the keynote address. Despite record numbers entering higher education, said the minister, "not all young people have the same choice. Although 54 per cent of young people from professional backgrounds and managerial homes go on to higher education, only

do so. We cannot tolerate such disparity."

Of course, but as I listened to her, I could not help thinking that the Government has a lot to answer for. Lady Blackstone said her department was monitoring the fall in applications from mature students, which she attributed to an improving labour market, a decline in people without qualifications and a rise in part-time courses which are not included in UCAS figures. I am not so sure: applications from mature students are down a massive quarter on last year. Surely, tuition fees are mainly to blame?

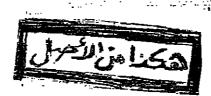
ON Tuesday evening, as I journeyed home, I allowed myself a satisfied smile. The following day's paper was full of excellent things: Jeremy Laurance exposing the tobacco companies as having conned smokers with claims about the safety of "low tar" cigarettes; more on Bill Clinton's alleged affairs and Alastair Campbell's discomfort over his boss's cosying with Rupert Murdoch; a great read on the tragic life of Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor and a new column confronting issues affecting the eth-

nic minorities from Randeep Ramesh. Pats on the back all round. On Wednesday morning, I came in to find we had more readers' complaints than I have ever experienced. Letters, e-mails, phone calls - they made their anger plain. Our sin?

We had repeated Tuesday's cryptic crossword in Wednesday's paper. An error easily made in these days of hi-tech production - but an error nevertheless. We tried to placate callers by faxing them the puzzle they missed and promising to runtwo crosswords in Thursday's paper, but for some this was not good enough. One caller was hysterical - to a degree that made me realise we really had deprived him of a daily friend or fix. The next time I leave the office content with our lot, I will make one last check on the crossword. I promise.

WHAT we could have said, but didn't, when people rang to complain about the lack of new clues for one down and two across. was "April Fool!" We played two jokes on readers this year: we "revealed" that a Cabinet committee was proposing replacing hereditary peers with ordinary people, chosen at random, like jury service; and we "disclosed" the latest innovation to bit rugby, a ball that flashes when kicked through the uprights. I felt a twinge of guilt in case readers fell for them and made sure we had done enough to indicate they were a spoof. When the night desk said reporters from The Times and Daily Mail had been on, saying they had been asked to follow up our very good story about the House of Lords my heart leapt. Got 'em!

ROSIE BOYCOTT





DAVID **AARONOVITCH** THE ORIGINS

OF THE MONSTERS

WE HAVE spoken about cryptozoology before, you and I. The word was comed by a Dr Bernard Heuvelmans in the 1950's to describe his own rather peculiar interests. Dr Heuvelmans combined the Greek word, "kryptos" or hidden, with "zoology" to give us the study of unknown or fantastic beasts.

Naturally, cryptozoology has come to have its moderate and its extreme wings. The moderates content themselves with identifying previously obscure species of nematodes in unpleasant caverns in the Carpathians. The extremists are better known to us from popular television programmes, where they talk about unicoms, yetis, beasts of Bodmin, the Loch Ness monster, extant dragons, Bigfoots and a hundred other fabulous animals.

This is a dumb column, written by a dumbed-down author for jaded Saturday palates; so let us forget about the bloody nematodes. If it's nematodes you're after, try the New Scientist. No, we will concentrate instead on the exotic, racy end of the market, where the wild things are, For, tomorrow, the National History Museum opens an exhibition dealing with things like the Cyclops and the Abom-

inable Snowman. And it seeks to answer the question, why do tales of such extraordinary manifestations persist so obstinate-

The first explanation, preferred by nutters and television producers with prime time slots to fill, is that the rumours carry on because they're true. There really is a beast of Bodmin, and here's the photo of it on a dry-stone wall; there really are yetis in the Himalayas - a guy called Messner saw one recently and it was almost 200cm tali, orange-furred, nocturnal, ate yaks and communicated with fellow yetis by whistling ("Oh Danny Boy"?); the forests of Oregon really are home to the Sasquatch, and here's a picture of a female one that looks just like a guy in a gorilla suit, but isn't. Folk like this read

reports from Moscow on the latest proceedings of The International Conference on the Relict Hominoid. Such credulity is not for the sophisticated, who know that the famous fairies photos were faked. So some prefer the theory that many of these animals are inherited memories, inhabiting our sub-conscious minds. Once we and they did walk the earth the together, just as our Cro-Magnon ancestors shared forests and caves with Neanderthals. Giant apes and tree sloths, long extinct, may have left an impression on Ug and Glug that has been branded into the genes of a

I do not myself believe it. It is a matter of fact, and not conjecture, that - in the Ice Age - man hunted the mammoth. Hell, we practically factory farmed the furry things. So how come we do not find ourselves sidling up to the smooth elephants at the zoo and whispering "Wotcha baldy!" in their hairless ears? I am prepared to believe that we are programmed to move our hips in intercourse, but not that we are equally programmed to believe in unicorns.

So, lets look at option three, which is also for the more scientifically minded. That these wonderful animals are rationalisations of other things - misunderstandings, if you like. Take the Cyclops, the one-eyed giants encountered by Odysseus on his somewhat hectic voyage home from the Trojan war. Now, there are islands en route between Ilium and Ithaca where palaeontologists have discovered fossils of extinct pygmy elephants. These have one big hole in the skull where the trunk went. So, as Dr Angela Milner, a a dinosaur expert put it, "The ancient Greeks would never have seen elephants, so it was a natural association to assume that the skull belonged to a giant one-eyed man." Likewise dragous could be explained by travellers who heard reports of giant lizards in the far east, or who saw some of the old dinosaur fossils in China.

You see how easily all this can be explained? It's like the Bible with its floods and Red Sea partings, or the drowning of the lost island of Atlantis. Ancient earthquakes in the Middle East, a volcanic eruption on the island of Santorini that destroyed the Minoan civilisation of Crete - it's not that the stories aren't true, exactly; quite the contrary; something did indeed happen to start the tales off. Or, as Dr Milner went on to say about past cryptozoological phenomena, scientists have "found scientific explanations for most of the monsters that exist in legend, and in many cases there is a logical expla-

But, if you will permit me, I would like to canvass support for my own explanation - the fourth theory, if you like. It is quite a simple postulation compared with the hidden memory and rationalised event theories. And it is this. We made the whole lot up. Everything. All of it. Storytellers who knew how the dark frightens us, how the large awes us, how sharp teeth threaten us, how the uncivilised cannot be reconciled by our peaceful words and gestures, these storytellers constructed tales out of their own heads which deployed these elements and combined them. From the slipperiness of snakes, the slyness of wolves, the strength of giants, we fashioned Cerberus, the Hydra, the Cyclops, the yeti and the dragon. It all comes from within, constructed by that genuinely fabulous, epiphenomenal, exceptional, infinitely complex and wonderful thing - our imagination.

To adapt a phrase, you certainly could (and you do) make it up.

Don't tell me about re-branding Britain, you'll never get it anyway



SUZANNE MOORE

THE DEATH OF THE COOL

YOU could say that I am just put out because no one has asked me to be on Panel 2000, the gathering of 33 famous faces brought together to aid New Labour in presenting a "positive contemporary identity" to the rest of the world. But you would be wrong. I want no part of any welfare to work scheme even if it is one for creative celebrity types. I have to admit anyway that I lack the basic qualification. I have no idea really what the cool in Cool Britannia means. But perhaps I could be some consultant of anti-cool because I sure as hell recognise what its not. The rebranding of Britain involving New Labour, the Spice Girls, dress designers and lots of gadgets does not appear cool in any sense.

Each man kills the thing he loves - someone quite cool said that I believe - and so it is the way of the world that even intelligent politicians inevitably strangle at birth any idea that doesn't fit neatly into pre-conceived political categories. The notion of Cool Britannia floated a couple of years ago referred to a vague, transient, incoherent and organic phenomenon that was primarily cultural. Our artists, our musicians, our designers were producing an image of Britain through their work that seemed fresh. Though it referenced the past it felt modern and selfconfident.

To try and harness such amorphous forces to promote anything other than themselves was always a bad idea. The intricate and complex relationship between culture and politics is hard to fathom. There is only one thing that you can be definite about: cultural change proceeds political change. therefore the spectacle of politicians trying to use these cultural undercurrents to shore up their own credibility is always bound to fail. There are those paid to read the changes, those paid to create the changes and those paid to manage them. All these groups have entirely different agendas, different motivations and live in entirely different



Blair Inc. mistook a youthful anti-Tory sentiment as an embrace when it was little more than a shrug. It all reminds me of an item, The Ant and Dec Show, a youth programme, in which every week some embarrassing Dad would be brought on stage. His crime was inevitably dancing during Top of the Pops, telling jokes to his teenage children or doing appalling impressions. The Dad

would perform while his off-

was Ian Brown, former Stone Rose. The boy looks good and the boy has done good, but do we really want to know his views on homosexuality? "Violence comes from Romans, Nazis, Greeks. They were all homosexual and I've got gay friends that will back me up". Back you up? If you're right, Ian, surely they will beat you up. Just as Ian Brown should do what he is good at, so the Government should stick to what it is good at - being the boring, estab-

For all its concern about image, this government should really get its own house in order. A truly cool government would not let Harriet Harman blather on about "hand-outs". It would realise that its stance on tuition fees, on drugs, on "scroungers" is fundamentally opposed to the interests of many of the constituencies it is trying to attract. No amount of image-making will change the fact that the policy and the image do not go together.

leanings into its own narrow agenda. Much of the creativity of our best artists and musicians springs from a spontaneous need to express their own view of the world, not someone else's. Just a glance at some of the subject matters that some of our young geniuses are dealing with -death, decay, class, racism, and drugs - would surely indicate that they are hardly going to conform to some New Shiny Clean Labour aspirations. One may re-brand a prod-

ing it already. But a government,

any government, cannot incor-

porate anti-establishment

uct; but if that product has changed and diversified, it cannot be re-branded into a single, neat package. We are, as Blair says, a mixture of old and new. Our confusion is symbolised for me by Bernie, the new virtual presenter of the Lottery show. She is a little bit Cilla, little bit Anthea, a little bit Pamela Anderson, a little bit Cyberbabe. The point is that she is not real but a ridiculous attempt to unify an incredibly diverse number of demands

Those who originally created the impetus that came to be defined as Cool Britannia never ever believed that Britannia rules the waves. They only ever got to be cool because they knew that Britannia waves the rules. Someone, somewhere must be cool enough to explain this to our rulers?

Anyone who tries as hard as this government to be cool is obviously not going to be. I don't want Blair to be cool, I just want him to be good at his job

the audience. At the end the lishment figures that they are. whole audience would shout in unison "Your Dad is Sad".

Anyone who tries as hard as this government to be cool is obviously not going to be. If we wanted a weird, skewed, icon of cool to be Prime Minister we would have had Jarvis Cocker but instead we have got someone bland, mainstream, smugly normal. That doesn't matter. I don't want Blair to be cool. I just want him to be good at his iob. Why should he and people like Robin Cook force themselves to utter this drivel. They get it wrong, just like pop stars talking about anything other than how difficult it is to get out the second album when half the band are out of their heads.

You can't have it all ways. If we are worried that our in-

ternational reputation is at stake, then get some of these old diplomats back to Britain for a week and give them a guided tour. Or replace them. Panel 2000, which sounds like something you would buy at B & Q, cannot forge a future for Britain, however good and noble its members - the reason being that no one including the Prime Minister seems to know what they are talking about exactly. Last week when Blair was asked again what was going in the Dome he said, "We are forging a new patriotism focused on the potential we can fulfil in the future." Oh, so that's A prime example this week cleared that up then.

formerly supportive pop press renounced Blair a few weeks back. Those who lent their credibility to Blair are now back-tracking as fast as they can. Who now looks cool? Noel Gallagher for hob-nobbing with the PM or Damon Albam for refusing to be drawn in to the whole circus in the first place?

Of course it makes sense for business people to sell the image of modern Britain to the rest of the world; they had been do-

Martin Luther King's death is still a warning



TREVOR **PHILLIPS**

PERSISTENCE OF RACISM

FORGIVE me if it seems illmannered to write about "the black thing" two Saturdays running, but there are reasons. First because today is the 30th anniversary of an event that made a deeper mark on my attitudes to public life than any other, before or since: the assassination of Dr Martin Luther King.

I was fortunate to be able to grow up with the example of a moral and personal giant before me. Because of his and my race, I felt a little closer to him than many, but I imagine that King was available to anyone as a role model whatever their race. Today we think of him as a star performer: a magnificent orator, a mesmeric preacher, a blaze of charisma.

He belongs to a generation of legends who we now see only through the distorting bubble of television archives. In spite of efforts to "reassess" all of them - King, Keanedy, Muhammad Ali, De Gaulle, even poor deposed Khruschev - the heroes of that period still carry a mythic weight and nobility not seen since. Can we imagine Bill Clinton making the words "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" carry the tingle that Kennedy's inauguration speech still pro-

The nearest we come today is the saintly Nelson Mandela. He remains, in some senses, a figure of the 1960s anyway; his electrifying condemnation of apartheid in the Rivonia trial of 1963 still defines him, and archive film from the early Sixties, shown again and again, fixes him in our memory. In King's case, his speech at the Lincola monument - "Let Freedom Ring" - remains his

defining moment. There is no reason to suppose that King was inherently more charismatic than Jesse Jackson, or Kennedy, less morally compromised that Bill Clinton. But we don't think of them in that way. All these heroes were made famous by the box, at a time when TV journalism was not yet inclined to peck under the skirts of saints. us: "You see? Any time that been in part due to their own

The fact that for the first time we could see these great leaders frequently, close-up, and in the midst of crisis, separated them from the previous generation of rather remote figures. Churchill, who might have had the same impact, was only available on wireless in his great moment. The heroes of the Sixties seemed vital, and their actions immediate. For about ten years, a window existed before TV journalists, shaken and disillusioned by Vietnam and Watergate routinely adopted the tones of cynicism and accusation so familiar today. But for King, this was not a

film role. It was grim reality, and most people still fail to grasp the depth of his courage. King probably never had any doubt that he would die a premature death; and at just thirty-five, he was racing against time to accomplish as much as he could before the end came. His murder, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, came less than five years after the shooting of John F Kennedy, and just two months before the assassination of Bobby Kennedy who, as Attorney General. had been vital in delivering King's civil rights legislation. That last killing was a watershed

for black families all over the Our parents said firmly to anybody does the slightest thing for black people, they'll kill him." Bobby Kennedy's assassination even inspired a lachrymose hit song called "Abraham (Lincoln), Martin and John", which people actually played at parties. The chorus went: Has anybody here Seen my old friend Martin?

Can you tell me where he's He freed a lot of people,

going on a demonstration felt as though it carried the seeds of personal destruction. In this context it is not difficult to understand the decision of General Colin Powell not to offer himself as a candidate for

shortcomings, but the result of

any kind of successful political

action by a black person has al-

ways seemed to be peculiarly

predictable. So for my genera-

tion of black activists, merely

After Bobby Kennedy's assasination, our parents said to us: "You see? Any time that anybody does the slightest thing for black people, they'll kill him."

I just looked around and he was

Today, it is hard for anyone not part of this generation to grasp just how real the risk seemed. Members of the Black Panthers were being shot right left and centre; even here, people you knew were quietly spirited away, or as in the case of the most prominent black radical of 1960s Britain, Michael discredited and destroyed. Their deaths may well have

But it seems the good, they die the Presidency of the United States. His family clearly believed that even if he had won at the polls he would never have reached the swearing-in ceremony. The King family, and King's principal political protégée, former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young still suspect

that there was a cover-up over

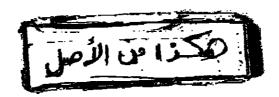
The certainty that politics is bad for black health persists. Even now, the decision of a young member of my own family to enter public life in the US

and lengthy transatlantic conferences about the chance of harm coming to him or her. It is perhaps a mark of the courage of the older generation. of black people that they still encourage such activism in spite of their own belief that it will inevitable end up in cata-

Of course none of the things that happened to King and the Kennedys could happen here, could they? Um, perhaps anybody who believes that should spend a few moments studying the reports of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. There are people in our society who treat a black life as casually as they would that of a passing insect. My own crop of racist hate-

mail this week was especially inspired. The Nazis are going communautaire. Part of one letter came in French, with a bandwritten note in English telling me that "we" will never go away "now we are being funded by our successful French comrades". I won't recount the rest of it, as even The Independent can be read by children. However, if my beetlebrained correspondent can get someone to read this column to bim or her, I would like him or her to borrow a brain cell and think about the following puzzle: why is an avowedly anti-European organisation using French money to promote its





By Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo and Diane Coyle in London

JAPAN'S struggling economy suffered another severe blow yesterday after the Moody's credit rating agency downgraded its assessment of its sovereign debt, provoking a further drop in share prices and driving the ven to its lowest level in six and a half years.

as yen dives

Yet as Japan reeled from the latest bad news, with share, bond and currency markets all tumbling, stock markets in New York and London made fresh gains. The Dow Jones index broke through the 9,000 barrier for the first time in early trading.

Moody's Investor Service revised its outlook for Japanese government bonds from "stable" to "negative", a step which could eventually lead to a downgrade of the government's overall credit rating.

"The change reflects uncertainty about the ability of the authorities to achieve a policy consensus that would help promote a return to economic growth and fiscal balance," the agency said in a statement from its New York headquarters. Another rating agency. Fitch IBCA, later said it was reviewing its ratings of Japanese banks and expected further downgradings.

The announcement – a day after the head of Sony said the economy was on the verge of collapse - nudged the already anxious currency and stock markets into a further round of selling which left the ven at its weakest level against the dollar since April 1992. It recovered slightly from a low of Y135.20 to the dollar after apparent intervention by the Bank of Japan, and hints by the finance minister. Hikaru Matsunaga, that the government would act to stabilise the currency.

The news drove the Nikkei share price index down to 15.517.78, a fall of 185 points or 1.18 per cent, following an early surge.

The message from Asian and European leaders gathered in London for the Asem summit was that there was no need to panic. Rvutaro Hashimoto, Japan's prime minister, admitted: "Various concerns from abroad have been voiced regarding the state of the Japanese economy."

He told the meeting that Japan would take the necessary measures for economdetails of a Y16 trillion (£72bn) stimulus

package announced earlier in the month, which has so far failed to restore confidence. The fundamental strength of the Asian economy runs deep. The current difficulties will be overcome," he said vesterday.

Tony Blair, hosting the conference. said the crisis had been "the most serious shock to the world economy for some decades". Today's communiqué will say the difficulties are not yet over and the need for vigilance remains.

Asia will remain high on the agenda for the meeting of G8 finance ministers and central bankers in Washington later this month, and at next month's summit of G8 leaders in Birmingham.

In contrast to the gloom in Tokyo, on Wall Street, the Dow Jones index jumped through 9,000, having gained 1,000 points 12.5 per cent in past two months.

The Treasury bond market also soared, gaining a point and a half after news of an unexpected drop of 36,000 in employment last month. This was the first fall for more than two years and followed a recently monthly average increase of 345,000.

Even though economists said the drop was a statistical aberration, and average hourly earnings rose by four cents last month to \$12,63, the financial markets concluded that the US was safe from any threat of higher interest rates.

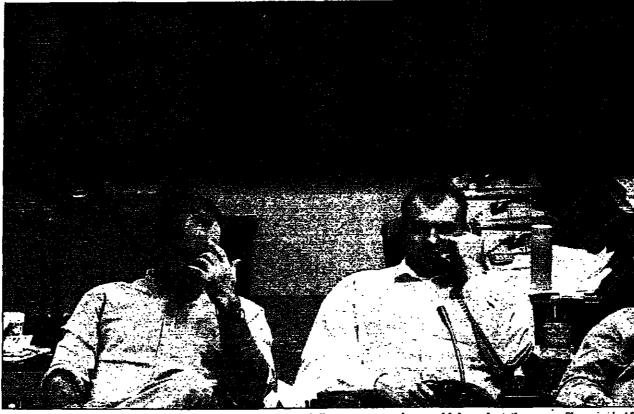
Shares in London also rose, the FTSE 100 index ending 11 points higher at 6.064.2. So far the US and European economies and stock markets have been little affected by the Asian crisis. although the risk of a spillover cannot yet be ruled out.

Keith Edmonds, an analyst at IBJ in London, said it was surprising that New York and London were ignoring the impact of the Asian crisis on prospective corporate earnings. "Liquidity-driven bubbles like these

have always burst in the past," he warned. The Moody's statement surprised analysts. Some regarded it as an over-reaction but most were equally negative.

Michael Hughes, a director of Barings Asset Management, said: "It will take a full economic cycle to get Japan back on the road." Peter Chambers at HSBC Securities

said: "Japan is heading for depression. A Michael Harrison, page 25



Numbers game: Currency dealers in Tokyo react as the dollar soars to a six-year high against the yen Photograph AP

UK services still booming

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

PROSPECTS for interest rates in the UK were no clearer after fresh evidence yesterday that the service sector of the economy expanded vigorously in March. In the latest survey, businesses reported a pickup in new business, a growing backlog of work, shortages of skilled and unskilled staff and higher wages.

With this confirmation of a dual economy - booming services and limping manufacturing -- the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee still faces a tough dilemma when it meets next week. Official figures

London - FTSE 100

for industrial output due on Monday are expected to confirm this pattern.

City experts expect the decision on Thursday to hinge, once again, on the vote of Eddie George. The minutes of February's meeting, the latest published, showed the Governor's casting vote to have been decisive in keeping rates unchanged at 7.25

Yesterday's survey of services by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed buoyant activity, with the index at 60.3, a fraction lower than February but well above the 50 "boom-bust" watershed.

increased, at a slightly slower pace than the previous month, while employment and

Tokyo - Nikkei

17.4

17.0

16.8

16.6

16.4

16.2

16.0

15.8

The global economy in two halves - shares west and east

New York - Dow Jones

8700

8500

FTSE-100

prices rose at a faster rate. A third of all firms said they had more new business, and blamed their inability to meet current demand on staff shortages.

Respondents said they had to offer higher pay to attract new staff and retain existing staff, with the result that costs rose sharply for the 21st month running. The one negative note came from a sharp fall in optimism about future prospects.

Kevin Darlington, an economist at ABN Amro, said: "This survey is unlikely to tip the balance at next week's MPC meeting, but if it heralds firmer GDP growth New business and the backlog of work in the first quarter or higher underlying pay growth, we might only have to wait until May for the next rate rise."

Seoul - Korea composite

560 ;

approach' CITICORP, the US bank, is believed to have made merger overtures to Standard

rgos

Chartered, the UK-based international bank that has also been targeted by Barclays. Standard Chartered rehuffed Citicorp's advances, saying it was committed to an independent future._ The news emerged after a Ciucorp executive leaked comments made by John Reed, Citicorp's chairman, at a three-day

Standard

rebuffs

'bid

Citicorp

management retreat in Arizona. Mr Reed is understood to have told hundreds of senior managers that the bank had been attracted by a number of acquisition opportunities, including Standard Chartered. According to the Wall Street Journal. Mr Reed is also understood to have binted at

ome type of co-operation with Merrill Lynch, a top-tier US investment bank, although a Citicorp spokesman said vesterday the remarks were not made in reference to an "acquisition or combination". Following the recent sharp fall in Standard's share price and media coverage of an informal merger approach from Barclays

Bank, Paul Collins, Citicorp's vice-chairman, is reported to have telephoned senior Standard Chartered executives in London. Mr Collins is understood to have told Standard that, if it were considering merging with Barclays, to talk to Citicorp first. Standard Chartered executives told Mr Collins what they told Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, namely that the bank was committed to an independent future.

A Standard Chartered spokesman declined to comment. saying the bank never discussed "market rumours". However, the bank is understood to have received numerous informal approaches in recent months, largely triggered by the slump in Standard's share price in the wake of the Asian turmoil. Standard Chartered is an international banking group with substantial interests in Asia, and its shares, along with those of HSBC, fell dramatically as the Far Eastern economic crisis unfurled

Standard's shares closed at 864p, up 4p

with £380m Rolls offer

By Kerry Benefield

THE WAR between two German car giants for the most illustrious name in British motoring heated up yesterday after Volkswagen trumped BMW with an offer for Rolls-Royce valuing the business at £360m-£380m.

Vickers, Rolls' parent company, confirmed it had received a new offer from cause it remained locked in four weeks of exclusive negountil the end of April to seal the terms of the deal.

secured Rolls on Monday after submitting an offer of £340m. VW's initial offer was worth just over £300m and was hemmed in with conditions that would have allowed it to reduce the price if BMW withdrew its contract to supply engines for still reckoned to give it the edge the new Silver Seraph model.

The prospect of a bidding war helped Vickers' shares motor ahead 6.5p to 237p yesterday as the market braced itself for a battle to the bitter end between two rival German companies.

Vickers sources said that, in total, the BMW bid valued Rolls Royce Motors at about £400m since BMW is not buying either its specialist engines Volkswagen but said it was and pressings businesses, said unable to discuss the details be- to be worth £40m in total, and will also repay working capital put into Rolls since the start of tiations with BMW, which has the year, which is likely to be about £20m

BMW has also pledged to BMW was thought to have invest a further £1bn in the company over the next 10

BMW's production of engines for Rolls-Royce, and its close ties with Rolls-Royce plc. the aero-engine company that to a foreign bidder if it thought owns the Rolls-Royce name, is

in the bid battle with VW. However. VW believes that Rolls' engine contract with BMW will oblige it to maintain supplies long enough for a new source of engines to be found.

Rolls-Royce plc has made it clear that it is in favour of the BMW deal, and could attempt to removed the Rolls-Royce name from the cars if VW emerges victorious.

Vickers says its legal advice is that the ownership clause is invalid and that if Rolls-Royce plc attempted to enforce it, the company would be in breach of European competition laws.

The clause was put in place when the Rolls-Royce business was split in two in the early 1970s and the aero-engine division was taken into state ownership. It was designed to allow Rolls-Royce plc to veto the sale of Rolls-Royce Motors the buyer was inappropriate.

Volkswagen tops BMW Brewers to close sites and cut jobs

THREE brewers took further steps to counter the over-supply in Britain's beer market yesterday when they announced plans to close or sell three breweries with the loss of more than 200 jobs.

Whitbread confirmed plans to close two breweries in Cheltenham and Castle Eden, County Durham at the beginning of October if no buyer can he found. The two sites employ

111 workers between them. Morland, the Old Speckled

Hen brewer which bought the Ruddles brands from Grolsch last year. is closing its Langham brewery near Oakham, Rutland later this year, affecting 38 jobs. It plans to shift production of Ruddles to its Abingdon brewery. in which it is investing £1.5m

Separately Newcastle Breweries, part of Scottish & Newcastle, has announced 71 job cuts at a plant in Newcastle. The company blamed the redundancies on the rising popularity

of lager, which is affecting sales beer drinkers to write and comof Newcastle Brown Ale.

Nikkei

Morland's decision provoked a stinging attack from Camra, the real ale campaign group. Mike Benner, the group's head of campaigns, said: "Morland has betrayed Britain's beer drinkers. Brewing Ruddles outside its Rutland homeland will ruin the beer. A different team of brewers and different ingre-

dients will see to that." Camra has called for an urgent meeting with Morland's management and is inviting ale and Trophy Bitter.

plain to the company.

Morland's decision to close

Korea Composite

the Langham brewery, which it acquired as part of the Ruddles deal last September, was not a surprise. It had mainly been interested in the beer brands rather than the production facilities. Whitbread's plans to close

two of its five breweries had also been widely expected. The Cheltenham site brews Flowers cask ale while the Castle Eden plant produces Castle Edeu

Miles Templeman, managing director of the Whitbread Brewing Company, said that although the group had recently achieved its highest ever market share it was operating in a highly competitive and changing market

"These changes will help us achieve leading standards of cost-efficiency and productivity whilst providing an even more effective service to our customers," he said. The brands brewed at Castle Eden and Cheitenham will be transferred to other Whitbread breweries.

Bank linked to Nazis seeks to improve its image

By Lea Paterson

UBS and SBC. the merging Swiss banks, have hired a corporate identity consultant to im-

prove their tarnished images. "It's certainly a challenge." said Kaspar Loeb, a member of the management committee of Interbrand Zintzmeyer & Lux, the Zurich branch of the Interbrand image consultancy. Both UBS and SBC have re-

ceived substantial amounts of negative press coverage following confirmation of their merger plans back in December. There have been hundreds of lay-offs at the investment banking arms of the two banks, questions surrounding the banks' tarnished the SBC and UBS handling of questions surlinks with Nazi Germany and hundreds of millions of pounds

in trading losses at UBS. Further bad press is likely in the coming months as the two banks begin to rationalise their branches in Switzerland.

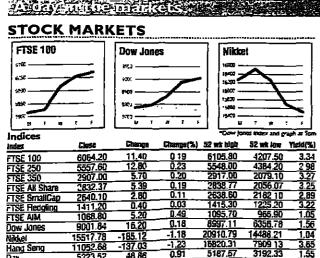
Mr Loeb admitted the investment banking lay-offs had

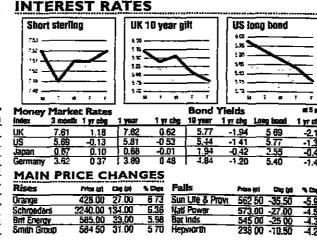
brands, although he added that the damage was mostly confined to the UK. "In Switzerland, the two banks are seen as trustworthy." he said.

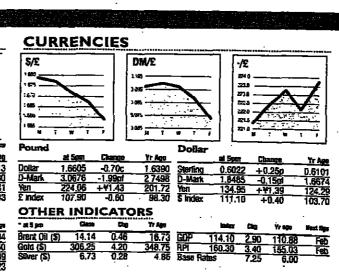
According to Mr Loeb, UBS is commonly perceived as being the more "rigid" of the two banks, partially because of its

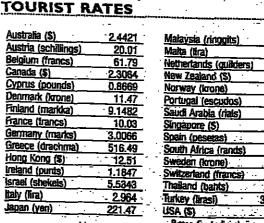
rounding its links with Nazi Germany and dormant accounts of Holocaust victims

Interbrand's first task would be to help determine the positioning of the new UBS brand. Mr Loeb said. Earlier this year, UBS brought in Bell Pottinger Financial, the PR agency.



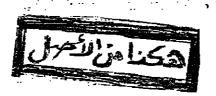






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MICHAEL HARRISON ON A JAPANESE COLLAPSE AND THE WEST'S SEARCH FOR A **NEW ECONOMIC** STAR IN ASIA

Don't bank on China for the next miracle

IT IS HARD not to feel a twinge of satisfaction at the turn of events in Japan and elsewhere across Asia. Two years ago, when the first Asem Asia-Europe meeting took place in Bangkok, there was a distinct swagger in the step of the Ascan leaders. Their tiger economies were the envy of the world and Europe was scrambling for a share of the miracle, egged on over here by pundits and politicians alike (Tony Blair in particular).

Now the boot is on the other foot. The 10 Asian leaders who have assembled in London this weekend for Asem 2 now find themselves cast in the role of supplicants. They complain that Europe has not stumped up its fair share of funds to bail out the likes of Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia.

They want a partnership with the European Union to foster trade and investment. But what they also want is our money, channelled through the International Monetary Fund, to put right their battered economies which, we now know, were built not on sound money but cronyism, corruption and crass lending.

Until very recently, it looked as if Japan would withstand the devastating combination of recession and deflation which has sent South East Asia into such a tailspin, even though the area is Japan's single biggest market.

Now no one is quite sure. The president of Sony, Norio Ogha, says Japan is on the verge of economic collapse and compares Prime Minister Hashimoto to Herbert Hoover, who led America into the Great Depression of 1929, Mr Ogha wants the Japanese government to reflate the economy and stimulate domestic demand (Sony finds it hard to shift Walkmans when everyone is keeping their money under the bed).

Mr Ogha's comments, given to the foreign press corps, were undoubtedly intended more for consumption in the West. If the plan was to pile the pressure on Mr Hashimoto just as his American and European counterparts are also calling for a big Japanese fiscal boost, then it could not have worked better.

But there is worse to come, Moody's, acutely aware of the failure of credit rating agencies to forecast the Asian slump, has changed its outlook on Japan from stable to negative. This is a neat way of making Japan pay more for its horrowings without actually downgrading its sovereign debt.

Meanwhile the Tokyo stock market continues to slide, which is perhaps more ominous. In the last week the Nikkei has shed another 7 per cent of its value, putting more pressure on the be-

large proportion of its capital tied up in Japan, becomes Asia's economic powequities. How long before we enter the danger zone where the banks can no longer maintain their capital ratios and are forced to cease trading or seek a govemment rescue?

With many of the tiger economies flat on their backs and the US determined not to allow its trade deficit with Japan to grow further, an export-led recovery does not look on the cards.

Japan has implicitly accepted that its future economic success will depend on having the kind of open markets and deregulated financial services that Anglo-Saxon capitalism has pioneered. In a week when the FTSE 100 has breached the 6,000 mark and Wall Street has smashed through 9,000, it is hard to argue with the supremacy of the Western

That is why Japan launched its Big Bang this week, a process that could eventually see Tokyo opened up as a financial centre in the way that London was a decade ago. Since then the London market has doubled in value to \$2,000bn. passing Tokyo on the way down.

A similar Japanese renaissance is not impossible. But right now it looks unlikely. That is why Western leaders are subtly shifting their allegiances towards leaguered banking sector which has a Peking in the event that China, not

erhouse in the 21st century.

Mr Blair has made the transfer from fan of Tiger to friend of China seamlessly. feting the new Chinese premier Zhu Rhongi as a "fellow moderniser". Asked whether the Chinese leader was the sort of man Mr Blair could do business with. Mr Blair's official spokesman replied: "Mr Blair did business with Mr

It is all rather alarming. China may be a vast potential market with 1.2bn potential customers and a growth rate that would have made even the Tigers roar before the onset of their present troubles.

But in vast swaths of the country, China remains a feudal economy with a physical infrastructure that is at best crude and, in many areas, non-existent. For all Mr Zhu's reforming zeal it is important to remember that China is still run by a totalitarian regime.

Furthermore, it remains bureauctatic and corrupt while its banking system is not that healthy. Moreover, the pace at which economic reform is being pursued may prove unsustainable.

The Chinese state, a vast bloated bureaucracy, is seeking to reduce its payroll by the equivalent of the entire working population of the United States. Stop for a second and think of the unstoppable tidal wave of social unrest that threatens to create.

The rush of Western companies seeking to get a tochold in China is extraordinary. Airbus wants to build commuter jets with the Chinese. Rolls-Royce wants to design engines, BAA wants to run their airports and Zeneca is putting up a weedkiller plant. Everywhere you look, Western companies are looking for a slice of the action whether it be lubricants from Burmah Castrol, air fresheners from Reckitt and Coleman or condoms from London International.

Companies failing over themselves to do business with China could do worse than reflect on the experience of Richard Gosling, recounted in the columns of this paper on Tuesday. Mr Gosling lost millions of pounds in a venture with China's 14th largest state-owned corporation to build printed circuit boards in China. A High Court judgment against the corporation, CTIETCC was ignored and Mr Gosling got his money back only after obtaining an order to seize its assets in Hong

It is a salutary story which Western politicians as much as businessmen should contemplate before they embrace China as the next economic miracle, only to be sorely let down once

Argos offers £431 m to beat bid faces court

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, unveiled the final part of its defence against Great Universal Stores' £1.6bn bid yesterday with plans to return £431m to shareholders if they turn down the GUS offer. .

The cash return of 150p pershare came as Argos unveiled an upbeat profit and dividend forecast for the first six months of this year. It also claimed the implied value of an ongoing share in Argos was 700p including the cash return, far higher than GUS' 570p offer.

As Argos shares dipped 2p to 646p, most analysis said they expected GUS to increase its bid next week with some saying the home shopping group may have to add up to £1 per

An upbeat Stuart Rose, Argos' new chief executive, said: "I think our chances [of fighting off the bid) are extremely good, I feel bullish." Urging shareholders to reject the offer he added: "GUS has misjudged it. The offer woefully under-valnes the business."

Argos's institutional shareholders appeared supportive yesterday and most said the

new management team had raised the stakes significantly since the bid battle started. They are making a reasonable show of their defence and I

think GUS might have to pay un quite a bit more to get it," said one senior fund manager.

Lord Wolfson, GUS chairman, maintained the pressure with another attack: "It is extraordinary that, after a series of profits warnings, Argos believes it deserves a blue chip price earnings multiple similar to M&S, Kingfisher and Boots."

He said the profits forecast was "imaginary" and the calculation of an implied Argos share price "totally unrealistic". Analysts at stockbroker NatWest Securities criticised

Argos, saying it was returning too much cash to shareholders and that GUS might not need we overdone the ca distribution placing the company in a perilous financial position. They have shot themselves in the foot GUS may even say its 570p or that's it." Argos admitted that re-

turning £431m to shareholders would give the company debts of more than £300m and negative net assets. However, it said cash generation was strong and interest cover . GUS, given the competitive



to raise its offer at all to win. Upbeat: Stuart Rose and Bob Stewart, Argos financial director

would stand at 5.5 times. Under takeover rules, GUS has until next Thursday to make its final offer.

One analyst said: "If they walk away having bid 570p they really do look rather opportunistic. There is now a case for saying that GUS needs Argos more than Argos needs threat which Argos poses through the extension of home delivery and through its joint venture with Littlewoods."

Separately, Argos announced that it will close its two First Stop stores at a cost of £2m. These were a test of a lower priced warehouse style operation. The company also said that Peter Birch, the former Abbey National chief executive. would succeed Sir Richard Lloyd as chairman in May, if the GUS bid were defeated.

Andrew Buurman

Argos is forecasting first half profits of £35.9m, an increase of 27 per cent. The dividend will see a 15 per cent increase to 21.2p, it said.

GUS shares closed op high-

Grabiner hearing

By Paul Routledge

UNITED News & Media has been cleared to take Stephen Grabiner, its former executive, to court at the end of the month in an attempt to prevent him taking up his post as chief executive of British Digital Broadcasting, the pay-TV group.

The April 28 trial date, which was set by a judge at a private hearing yesterday, will stop Mr Grabiner from starting work for his new employers for another three and a half weeks. casting a doubt over BDB's plans to launch a 15-channel service in the autumn.

United has issued a writ to keep Mr Grabiner to the terms of his contract, which includes a 12-month notice period. It has also issued an injunction preventing Mr Grabiner from starting work with his new employer until the issue is resolved. In response, Mr Grabiner is understood to be claiming constructive dismissal by United,

Mr Grabiner announced his departure from United at the end of January. When United and BDB failed to reach an agreement, he walked out of United last month. United immediately took out an injunction.

Beleaguered Costain cuts losses to £7.4m

COSTAIN, the beleaguered engineering and construction group, has made headway in cutting losses and turning round the company, which lost £400m in three years. The group managed to reduce its pre-tax losses to £7.4m in 1997, compared with £62.3m in 1996.

Turnover fell from £745m to £571m, due in large part to the disposal of the company's interest in coal mining. John Armitt. Costain chief executive, said yesterday: "Trading so far this year has been held back by uncertainty created by the protracted suspension of the company's share listing." In addition, short-term prospects in South-east Asia had diminished, he said.

Brussels OK for Spillers deal

NESTLE'S £715m purchase of Dalgety's Spillers pet-food unit was approved by European Union regulators yesterday. clearing the way for Nestle to become Europe's number two pet-food maker. Dalgety, the pig breeding and agriculture company, said the sale of Spillers and other units would allow it to return £675m to shareholders, up from a planned £650m announced earlier, and said it would bring the payment forward to June from December.

Saatchi dismisses bid talk

SAATCHI & Saatchi yesterday said it wanted to stay independent amid speculation that the media and advertising comny could soon he the target of a bid, perhaps from Franc Havas Advertising. The company's shares have surged 10 per cent this week on speculation of a bid. Bob Seelert, chief executive, said; "Independence suits us." The shares fell 5.5p to 167p. The comments came as the company said 1997 pretax profits rose to £27.8m from £16.5m in 1996.

Guinness Mahon sold

THE BANK of Yokohama has agreed to sell Guinness Mahon, the UK banking group, to Investee of South Africa for £95m. The announcement follows last week's disclosure that the two parties were in exclusive sale talks. David Potter. Guinness Mahon's chief executive, is understood to have been offered a senior management position at the South African bank, Job cuts are likely at both Investee and Guinness Mahon, and both groups are expected to relocate to a single City office.

Freeport plans cash call

FREEPORT LEISURE, the developer of factory-outlet shopping villages, plans a one-for-one rights issue of 20.1 million new shares at 325p per share to raise about £63.3m. The proceeds of the cash call will be used to fund the development of three new sites for outlet shopping and leisure operations, and will fund the purchase of sites at Braintree. Essex, and Wakefield, Yorkshire. Freeport is also developing a shopping mall in Newcastle-under-Lyme in a joint venture.

COMPANY RESULTS Turnover (Pre-tax (EPS Cambridge Mineral (F) - (-) -184 1m (-61 91m)-0 84p (-0.45p) - (-) Chemical Design (F) 1 87m (1 87m) -0 580m (0 165m) -9.1p (-2.9p) -(-) 559 9m (256 6m) -7 4m (-62.3m) -3.5p (-51 7p) -(-) 13.69m (11 75m) 1 39m (1.69m) 4 19p (6.03p) 2 0p (2.0p) Martin letni (F) 122.0m (111 4m) 2 42m (1.25m) 4 5p (2.2p) 1 3p (-) ueensborough Hidg (F) 36 57m (30 31m) 3.60m (3 59m) 2.58p (2 55p) 0 4p (0 3p) 18.46m (18.58m) -0.238m (0.166m) -0.13p (0.09p) n8 (-)

Virgin's £2bn West Coast line upgrade threatens rail war

By Randeep Ramesh

Transport Correspondent.

A RAIL WAR between Great North Eastern Railways and Virgin Trains loomed yesterday after the rail regulator ap-For proved the £2bn West Coast Main Line upgrade.

Hidden in the small print of the deal negotiated with Railtrack by Virgin, controlled by Richard Branson, is a provision for a new Virgin service linking London and Edinburgh.

The plan would see Virgin, which by 2001 will have a train linking the two capitals with a journey time of 3 hours 50 minutes, competing head to head with GNER's east coast service which, at best, take four hours.

GNER's chief executive, described the move as Virgin "cherry picking". GNER has proved phenomenally successful, beating the revenue British Rail raked in by more than £30m since it took over in

"Glasgow [Virgin's current main station] is 40 per cent larger than Edinburgh and Virgin runs a 35 per cent worse train service from there than we do from Edinburgh," Mr Garnett said. GNER points out that it

1996, taking £310m.

cannot respond in kind and "attack" Virgin's market on the west coast. "It is part of the deal to get the west coast modernised that there would be no competition from people like us," said Mr Garnett.

The huge investment by Railtrack and Virgin will lead to the introduction of fast tilting trains.

Mr Garnett pointed out that the regulator, John Swift QC, had only published "draft conclusions" and he would be lobbying hard to see changes.

Virgin said it was unperturbed by GNER's plans. "Nobody else has presented a business plan to Railtrack for this type of project," said a

Mr Swift said the plan had to be sensitive to the needs of the railway as a whole. "I want to see further improvements to services to Glasgow and Edinburgh and a significant improvement to services to North Wales," he added.

Nationwide faces disruption as three rebels run for election

By Andrew Verity

NATIONWIDE Building Society faces widespread disruption to its business after three rebel candidates yesterday entered the race for election to the society's board.

A mystery candidate became the third member to submit the 50 signatures needed to challenge the incumbent directors. Nationwide said it would not reveal the member's identity because the member had not sought publicity.

Two other candidates, Andrew Muir and Michael Hardern, are running for director despite having no experience in building societies or banks. The deadline for members to submit nominations is

Mr Muir, a 32-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough, will today send the Nationwide a fresh resolution asking the society to highlight ways to reward accountholders. But he will stop short of demanding the society floats on the stock market.

Mr Muir, who runs a small recruitment consultancy called Accountancy Support, has withdrawn an earlier resolution which proposed a windfall of at least £500 each to members without floating the company on the stock market.

"A third of members wanted conversion last year. A third is a big majority. Yes, it's not the whole majority, but you can't

carpet." Mr Muir said. Nationwide struck out Mr Muir's first resolution, saying it

just wipe them under the

appeared to show he did not understand the way building societies worked. If Nationwide had 4.5 million eligible members who received £500 each, this would reduce the society's £2.2bn reserve to nothing, making business impossible. "Effectively suggesting we have no reserves is not a viable suggestion." said a spokesman

for Nationwide. Mr Hardem was defeated in his bid to be elected to the board last year by a two-thirds majority. A butler by profession, he is running again in an effort to force a vote on con-

⇒WHO'S SUING WHO

JOHN WILLCOCK



THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is seeking confiscation and compensation orders to recover over £1.5m from two husband and wife teams, one Russian and one British, who were sentenced to jail yesterday for a sophisticated international fraud.

The defendants pleaded guilty earlier this year to inducing some 700 businesses in the former Soviet Union to pay travelling and hotel costs for senior executives to attend non-existent management seminars in California in the summer of 1996.

Together, the police from Thames Valley and Russia believe they have traced all the losers, and are embarking on the legal trail to return the money to the victims.

At Isleworth Crown Court yesterday Svetlana Konznetsova, 34, was sentenced to 2 years for conspiracy to defraud. She was the prime mover behind the fraud and acknowledged all the facts of the Crown's case. Her husband, Igor Faikovsky, 35, was sentenced to jail for money laundering - the first time the SFO has ever

brought a money laundering charge. Michael Newman. 39, received 3 years for furnishing false information for accounting purposes, while his wife Maria, 31, got 18 months for conspiracy to go equipped to cheat.

Many thousands of glossy brochures for the "Investor Corporation", a company registered in Bermuda, were printed in Reading with the sole aim of enticing businesses in the Ukraine and Russia to part with their

Kouznetsova produced the brochure in Russian with the help of the Newmans and sent it out via a mail distribution service at Heathrow Airport in 1996.

The brochure claimed Investeo was "a founder member of the Roosevelt Foundation", a charity said to be sponsoring the courses. There is no evidence the Roosevelt Foundation exists.

The brochure also claimed that Investco had "a turnover of US\$\$50 million in 1995". In fact it was bought by Newman and Kouznetsova from an English company formation agent called "OCRA" in early 1996. In response to the brochure, which in-

vented a series of non-existent lecturers from institutions like Yale University. Russian businesses sent money to Investco accounts in London and Geneva.

Correspondence from the victims was directed to mail drop addresses in California, Luxembourg and Belgium, from where it was forwarded to further mail drop addresses in Reading and London.

The SFO said vesterday: "Kouznetsova and Falkovsky operated only from these addresses and used only mobile telephones. This made finding them difficult." "They were eventually caught when they

were stopped in the City of London driving a car which was circulated as being of interest to Thames Valley Police," the SFQ said.

The defendants benefited from the money by filtering it through a series of accounts under false names in countries as varied as Andorra and Guernsey.

In the early part of the SFO investigation, the Newmans went to live in Spain. Michael Newman was arrested in August 1997 while visiting Switzerland. He was extradited from Switzerland in September last year. After that his wife returned voluntarily from Spain to face trial.

THE Financial Services Authority (FSA) won a series of court orders this week against Steven Rhodes, an unauthorised share dealer who the FSA claims tried to sell shares in an American company to investors in South Africa, Ireland and Jersey.

Mr Rhodes carried on his business from offices in Jermyn Street in London under the name "Stirling Montague & Speke." The High Court granted the FSA a worldwide freeze over Mr Rhodes's assets and ordered him to repatriate all funds he might hold overseas. It is understood that the FSA is seeking to recover about £250,000 which investors handed over in the belief that they

were buying shares in International Resorts and Entertainment Group, a Florida-based hotels company. The company has said any such share purchases were "null and void."

MARCELLA Levy-Aston, better known as "Marcella Detroit" out of Shakespeare's Sister, the formerly popular young persons' beat combo, has issued a writ against her record company.

The statuesque chanteuse, who lives in Camarillo, California, is seeking to clarify what royalties she is owed by FFRR Records, trading as London Records, of Chancellors House, Chancellors Road, London.

Ms Levy-Aston is seeking between £10,000 and £50,000. Her writ seeks

'damages for breach of contract" and "equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty" in respect of six separate contracts agreed with the record company, stretching from 19 July 1988 to De-

Training course problems add to turmoil for Azlan

MARKET REPORT



PETER THAL LARSEN

IT'S HARD to imagine things pany, which distributes com- to run training courses inponents for computer volving its products. Meaning in information technology. was the stock market dog of 1997 after it revealed widespread accounting problems.

After a four-month invescompany's chairman, chief executive and finance director all which had been suspended during the investigation. plunged to a fraction of their previous value.

At the time, few observers dependent for long. But the buyers have failed to materialise and the problems have continued to pile up. Yesterday, the shares slipped 5p to 46.5p as the market got wind of problems in the training

soon-to-be-floated computer distributor, has decided to set to 992.5p. up its own training arm rather than pass clients on to Azlan.

A spokeswoman yesterday tigation, during which the pointed out that Azlan had simultaneously picked up acdeparted. Azian revealed a lintel the chip giant. But the sonal equity plans.

£15m loss and launched a turmoil and uncertainty is un-£15m loss and launched a turmoil and uncertainty is unrescue rights issue. The shares. likely to end soon. There was plenty of activity elsewhere in the informa-

tion technology sector. Shares cialist Rolfe & Nolan plunged expected Azlan to remain in- 147.5p to 325p as US rival Sunoffer has attracted stiff opposition from users of the Meanwhile, smaller IT

consultancies were in demand. changed at \$1.5p. Admiral ended a strong week with a 42.5p hike to 1072.5p in Argos's final defence in its

getting any worse for Azlan. giant, has withdrawn the ac- burg showed institutional inbut they just did. The com- creditation which allows Azlan vestors around its French operations. The shares have doubled in value since Sepnetworks and provides train- while Computacenter, the tember. Druid, specialising in SAP software, jumped 136.5p

A rush of activity on the last day of the tax year helped the market to vet another record high, up 11.4 points at 6064.2. Dealers said private money creditation to do training for continued to pour into per-

took the opportunity to realise tax losses in troubled DIY group MFI Furniture, which was one of the most heavily in derivatives software spe- traded stocks of the day. Over 32 million of the shares, which have halved in value since guard withdrew its bid. The last August, changed hands. Vague chatter of a bid from

> share price, which was un-The market saw little new

Compaq, the US computer after house broker SBC War-battle with rival GUS, and ago, were all placed with in-were hitting record highs with ant. has withdrawn the ac-burg showed institutional in-marked the shares down 2p to stitutions. They finished the Unilever, up 20p at 628p and 646p. GUS gained 6p to 760p. Over in the Footsie, all the activity was in mobile

phone group Orange, which rose sharply as SBC Warburg cleared its 4 per cent stake. The 42 million shares, left over from Warburg's placing of the stake it took over from British Aerospace a few days



B&Q or, even more improbably, Argos, failed to move the

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day up 27p at 428p, suggesting that Warburg had made a at 1225p, especially in demand. tidy profit on the remaining.

Meanwhile, Warburg's telecom analysts were also said to be recommending rival mobile operator Vodafone. which put on 30p to 659p.

Standard Chartered its deal with France Telecom ained 4p to 864p late in the and Deutsche Telekom. day with Citicorp rumoured to be interested in making an ap-

Nuclear power generator British Energy added 33p to 585p as it extended the accounting life of two power stations. But National Power fell 27p to 573p as Merrili Lynch cut its recommendation on the shares to "reduce". The broker argued that with falling dividend cover and waning bid speculation the shares are at least 15 per cent overvalued compared to PowerGen, up 1p

Consumer goods stocks

Reckitt & Colman, 50p better

Wireless Communications, up

9.5p at 421p, continued to

gam ground on Thursday's

restructuring plan. Upstart

telecom group Energis added

another 42.5p to 707.5p after

News that Volkswagen had

launched a higher bid for its

Rolls-Royce luxury car unit

lifted Vickers, up 6.5p at 237p.

despite the group's insistence

that it would continue in ex-

clusive talks with BMW until

ics group Racal, down 10p to

333p, and car hire firm Avis

Europe, 6.5 lighter at 237.5p.

pose of its Milton Keynes dis-

tribution warehouse as part of

a cost-cutting drive lifted car-

parts distributor Parteo 10.5p

News that it planned to

Profit-taking hit electron-

at least the end of April

Cable operator Cable &

MICROGEN jumped 35.5p to 110p. The software and services group, which has issued three profit warnings in a short space of time, has brought in Martyn Ratcliffe. formerly in charge of Europe for US computer group Dell. as executive chairman. Mr Ratcliffe will subscribe for 3.9m shares - representing 10 per cent of the share capital at 90p. He will also be issued with options over 1 million shares, also at 90p, which he will only be able to exercise fully if the share price reaches 225p.

LINGERIE and knitwear group Martin International gained 2p to 43p after reporting pre-tax profits almost doubled at £2.42m on sales up 10 per cent at £122m. The group supplies Marks & Spencer as well as a large number of international clients. Chairman Michael Kidd expects "further progress in 1998". House broker Beeson Gregory forecasts profits of £3.2m. rising to £ ha la 1999.

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STANDARD

Raise a glass to the English pub



Fleet Street:

It was a dirty job but someone had to do it investigating the changing face of the nation's hostelries proved to be thirsty. and tiring, work

truth. I have been on a pub crawl on did art nouveau standing lamps so your behalf. This is part of an intensive in-depth research programme. However, I have to report an early hitch. Your two-man team Firkins of their day - and they tell began at Charing Cross, the traditional starting point for journeys around the kingdom, but eight pubs later we had progressed no further than Southwark where our journey was brought to a halt by, well, shall we say, the onset of fatigue.

My companion was Ted Bruning, an affable cove whose girth testifies There he built a palace of marble to a lifelong dedication to the subeditor of What's Brewing and author yards of gleaming woodwork. of numerous guides by the Campaign for Real Ale. Our purpose was to consider the changing face of the English pub and, since later this a mile away in Marylebone, Cockto begin, though our theme was national, and, indeed, as the drink took This was the grandest foolishness,

hold, became positively universal. We began with a swift midin the obvious rendezvous, The

THE THINGS I do in pursuit of dark wood, etched glass and splentypical of the gin palaces which spread like a rash all over England during the 1890s. They were the a cautionary tale for the modern brewing industry.

Over a pint of Marston's Pedigree, Ted told the story of Frank Crocker, an enterprising Victorian who saw the railway approaching from the North and estimated it would terminate at Maida Vale. and mahogany with a magnificent ject of our inquiry. Ted is the deputy Jacobean-style coffered ceiling and

Alas for Crocker, the line turned a few degrees at St John's Wood to month sees the publication of his new er went bust and killed himself by book, Historic Pubs of London, the jumping out of an upstairs window. capital seemed as good a place as any His pub, The Crown, was subsequently renamed Crocker's Folly. but it was only one of many.

It had all begun, said Ted as we morning half of Sam Smith's mild made our way down The Strand, in 1830 with the passing of the Beer Chandos, by the corner of Trafalgar Act, when Queen Victoria's minis-Square. But its interior was com- ters decided that ale, a virtuous pletely done out by the brewery in drink, was to be encouraged to 1984. We needed something more undercut the sellers of gin which was Victorian - for that is the period in reckoned the nation's ruin. The which the story of the English pub- Act allowed anyone to set up a beerlic house as a forum for unmitigat- house on payment of a token fee. ed drinking really begins. So, we set The pub was born - before that off up St Martin's Lane for The hostelries had been ancient inns and Salisbury with its extravagance of taverns which also provided accom- did not cover the cost and there was are no strangers here just friends hungry punters get bored. This Ted's favourite people) are just published on 16 April.



terminate not at his door but about Only here for the beer: Tom Bruning, above, enjoys a pint and a traditional pub atmosphere

term public house is Victorian. But without any profits. it also meant undesirables could

open low dives throughout the cap-"I hope this lot go the same way," ital's slums. They became havens for entered Scruffy Murphy's. I had By 1869, said Ted over a pint of Sam Smith's mild (again) in the been the King and Keys, the local Cheshire Cheese, Fleet Street, the of the Daily Telegraph next door. politicians had seen the error of their ways and the act was repealed. As national press moved out of London magistrates tried to reduce the number of licences, landlords tried to make their premises more rethose days, though I do remember spectable, creating opulent temples having a distinctly dodgy encounter darkly. with an Ulster printer who had acof imperial mahogany and plate-glass glittering in the new-fangled gaslight.

cused me of mimicking his accent. No danger of that now. "There around four years before the novelty-

the big brewers went for five years yucky legend by the door, along with all the Oscar Wilde quotes about work being the curse of the drinksaid Ted in an amiable tone as we ing classes, and so forth. The place was replete with cod Oirishness: the been in this pub before. It had then fittings of a fake small town hardware store, framed legends about Scruffy Murphy and a donkey, and

That was in the days before all the bogus hints about "the crack" somewhere is manufacturing hats with "Crack is Irish for 'a pleasant asto remote places like Canary Wharf. sociation of people' - and that's the The pub had not been Irishised in one thing which Allied Domecq [the owners] can't guarantee," said Ted, Still, its days may be numbered.

modation and food. Indeed, the very an almighty crash in which even who have never met," said the Scruffy Murphy's had a French waiter who knew nothing about Guinness, nachos at the top of the lunch-menu and piped Bob Marley instead of the expected diddly-i-di music. But don't rejoice prematurely, the brewers are

now running experiments on Czech

bars and Australian backpacker pubs,

Ted announced. Even now someone

Photograph: Brian Harris

dangling corks in industrial quantities. Ted is distinctly unimpressed with the corporate approach to pub closes the revolution starts, I selling beer. "They segment the market - with young people's pubs, family pubs, gay pubs. They even Theme pubs tend to have a life of have a category of pubs for dissidents

about to launch a brand of old people's Saga-market pubs, called Golden Oaks. "They call it increasing choice - and in cash-over-the-till terms it makes sense. But pubs were once about community, which is being destroyed. Market segmentation is dangerous because it tells people they have nothing to say to each other."

Yet despite the £12m a week the industry spends on pub conversions it is a declining trade: down from 37m barrels in 1991 to 34m in 1996. At present, 80 per cent of beer is drunk in pubs but, on present trends, by 2007 half of it will be drunk at home. "The death of the English pub has been much trailed but it is happening slowly. The returns just don't justify the capital tied up."

But aren't his protests just fighting a losing battle, I asked as we entered The Old Bell, a 17thcentury inn built by Wren for workers on St Paul's. It had been bought by developers in 1897, but they went bust before it could be turned into a gin palace. It is, thankfully, too small to attract the attention of the Firkin people today. "A losing battle?" said Ted, who thought he'd have a short this time. "Yes, it's like bailing with a sieve."

But a sighting of a rare example of Shropshire's Three Tuns Bitter in The Blackfriar cheered him up, as did the pub itself, with its layers of marble in browns and ochres, its mosaic ceilings and its bas-reliefs in bronze and brass. "The owner was a big wheel in the Arts & Crafts movement and the place was completely reworked by Henry Poole RA, around 1902," said Ted. "It's one of the most extraordinary pubs in the country, and all because of the taste of one man. It's a perfect example of something which doesn't happen in a corporate structure. Modern corporations don't have any moral or aesthetic values. They are driven only by money."

Undoubtedly, I said, and we moved on to the Badge and Coat atross the river. We have to resist these people, he said. As soon as this said. But first I thought I'd go and have a little lie down.

Historic Pubs of-London, by Ted like me." Allied Domecq (clearly not Bruning, (Prion Books, £14.99) is

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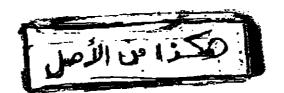
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TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION



Rock'n'roll suicide

... that was the coroner's verdict. But girlfriend Paula Yates reckons other forces were at work. In the Sunday Review tomorrow, the most thorough investigation yet into the strange death of Michael Hutchence



IME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



. Week in, week out

William Hartston reveals the truth behind the decision to abandon Paula lones's case against the president

What a good week it has been for Bill Clinton. On Thursday came the news that the case of Paula Jones v William Jefferson Clinton would not go ahead. An Arkansas judge, we were told, had thrown out all the charges.

But was it really so simple? Combing the hairier fringes of the week's news stories, we have found remarkable evidence of links between academies in Britain and San Diego which may have played a vital role in this whole affair.

The story begins in New Orleans at last week's meeting of the Society of Behavioural Medicine. According to one paper read at the meeting, researchers at the University of California at San Diego have been correlating people's lifespans, as

recorded on 27 years' worth of death cer-tificates, with their initials. The results showed that people with cheerful initials, such as JOY and GOD, live significantly longer than those with initials such as BUM or PIG.

"People are usually pretty careful not to name their kid Knucklehead, but I guess it's easy for parents not to notice what's happening with the initials. They need to watch that," said Nicholas Christenfeld, a

But what, you may ask, has this to do with WJC, the well-known president and philanderer? His initials would seem to come into the "neutral" or "meaningless" category, suggestive of an average lifespan.

Not when you think about them. Haven't you ever wondered why he calls himself "Bill" and not "William". Forget his ostentatious middle name, and you will see the reason. William Clinton is WC a most unappealingly lavatorial combination, and reason enough for him to change the W into a B.

That, however, left him with the firstname combination of BJ which, our researches have revealed, is an American colloquialism for oral sex, or blow-job. It is any wonder, then, that Mr Clinton, with

his self-esteem shattered at being named after a public convenience, should seek solace in that particular manner? Would TS Eliot have written such fine poetry if his mitials had been reversed and his whole name made to read "toilets" backwards?

Yet that is only half the story. While the behavioural medics were strutting their stuff

Who knows what the foetal Bill Clinton was whistling in the womb

in New Orleans, the British Psychological Society was adding more potential fuel to Clinton's defence at its annual meeting in Brighton. A paper by Stephen Evans of Keele University showed the results of playing unusual folk music songs to women in their 21st week of pregnancy. The tunes played to them were subsequently shown to have a soothing effect on their babies. The rate of kicking of a baby was reduced by half when it was played a tune it

Just think what Clinton's lawyers could have made of all this. Was it possible that his mother had listened to Lou Davis's tempting ballad "Hot Lips". What prenatally corrupting effect might it have had on the foetal president to have heard Bessie Smith telling him that "Tain't No Sin to Take Off Your Skin and Dance Around in Your Bones"? Even an apparently innocent chorus of "Heigh-ho Blow the Man Down" could have been held responsible for all his subsequent problems.

Add those mitigating circumstances to his possible plea of WC Initial Induced B-J Transference Syndrome, and you will understand wby the case against Bill Clinton would never have stood up in

Even the matter of his allegedly curved penis might have been explained by hearing the song "I've Never Seen a Straight Banana", yet in view of another of the week's academic findings, even that might not have been necessary, because according to data presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in New Orleans, a golf swing can create a terrible twisting effect. Comparing golfers with non-golfers, researchers have identified a twist in the bones of the

spine caused by the stress of swinging golf clubs. And, it must be asked, if this can twist your vertebrae, what might it do to a malleable penis? Curved genitals? It's all torque!

Finally - and nothing to do with Clinton - the erratum of the week. Headed "Mexico - bodily parts", the following cor-

If TS Eliot had been ST Eliot, his name would have read 'toilets' backwards

rection appeared on news wires: "In a March 28 story about the remains of national heroes, the Associated Press erroneously reported that the severed arm of a former president and general in Mexico's 1910-1917 revolution is preserved under glass. The arm of Gen Alvaro Obregon was displayed for many years at a Mexico City monument, but was removed and cremated in late 1989. The ashes were buried with the rest of his remains in the north-western state of Sonora."

Caribbean: Britain's crown iewels In the wild west of Wales 48 hours in Vienna Gone with the wind: learning to sail ■ CROSSWORD

GARDENING 12/13

Golf: how good is Tiger Woods? Grand National: big-race guide Football: dark days for Dalglish



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SIMON CALDER

The Independent's travel desk, unlike those of other newspapers, pays its own way. So I am hypersensitive about rip-offs. I also try to buy air tickets that do not allow changes, since they are vastly cheaper than the

flexible variety.

I cheerfully bought a £135 return ticket from London to Amsterdam with the stipulation "No changes, no refunds". Then British Airways found itself unable to deliver me to Amsterdam punctually, owing to a technical problem, and I couldn't get to Amsterdam airport in

time for the flight home. No problem, I assumed. The airline has fouled up. so surely BA will allow me to change the booking without penalty.

"Certainly, sir, you can upgrade to the next fare level. That'll be £156." Could EasyJet find me a

seat on its flight back to Luton? "Certainly, sir, that'll be £42." The prize for guessing which I took is the now-

useless return half of a BA

London-Amsterdam ticket. All of which is a longwinded way of applauding the no-nonsense approach of carriers such as EasyJet, Ryanair and Debonair. This week they were joined by Go, the airline with the shortest name in the world. Go, as its rivals are keen to remind us, is an offshoot of British Airways. But it needs to distance itself from the self-styled "World's

couple of reasons. The first is that the European Commission is watching closely for evidence that BA is underwriting Go in a bid to

Favourite Airline", for a

put its rivals out of business. The second, and possibly more critical, reason is that BA may lose its existing high-fare customers to the

new low-fare airline. The condition the restricts almost all cheap tickets within Europe is that you have to stay away for at least a Saturday night. If you have ever found yourself sleepless in Stuttgart on a Sunday when you'd rather be in Stranraer, Shrewsbury or Slough, you will realise why the airlines can get away with charging so much to people who

would prefer to be at home. But Go - which EasyJet claims has "photocopied" its business plan - applies no such penalties. You can save a fortuge on short-haul flights to Europe in return for forgoing an in-flight meal. The term the travel industry uses to describe turning high-yield customers into your own, low-value ones, is "cannibalisation". That'll give BA something to chew on.

The first occasion when the strength of British Airways' links with its new offshoot will be tested is likely to be when a Go plane "goes technical" somewhere in Europe, and there happens to be a BA aircraft heading back to Britain, If the Go (or no-Go?) passengers aren't keen to sit quietly and wait for the problem to be fixed. they may well argue a case for seats on the next BA flight home. Now, there's a good scene for a fly-on-thewall documentary.

The new film Oscar and Lucinda opened last night. Say what you like about the screen adaptation of Peter Carev's novel (it's haif-anhour too long, I'd say) the movie will do wonders for tourism. The story, about high-stakes gambling between an Australian entrepreneuse (Cate Blanchett) and an uncannily acute British preacher (Ralph Fiennes), was shot almost entirely on location.

The Australian portion was filmed "at practically every National Trust house in New South Wales", says the producer, Robin Dalton. Sydney was originally to be played by Hobart in Tasmania, but Ms Dalton says, "We couldn't afford it, so we masked out all the tall buildings."

The most beautiful location of all is, sadly, out of bounds to the tourist. The place to which the preacher delivers a crystal chapel is a river bank at Jacadgeree, west of Grafton in northern NSW. "We had to build a road in order to get to it," says Ms Dalton -"then take the road away."

Some British scenes, such as New College and Merton College Chapel in Oxford, look famili too, does HMS Warrior in Portsmouth. But if you think the scenes set on the Devon coast look uncharacteristically wild, that's because they were shot in north Cornwall. The venerable Prideaux Place, near Padstow, is open for paying visitors from Easter; call Peter Prideaux-Brune on 01841 532411.





Barbados bounty: the Crane Beach Hotel overlooking glorious beaches Photographs: David Ashdown

A lift from the Crane

Barbados has a hotel that has been offering the same simple pleasures since 1886. Clare Garner pays a visit

B-list celebrities in hotels with names like Glitter Bay and Cobblers' Cove, you haven't heard the half of it. The other side of the island is so different that some tourists enjoy a two-island holiday without leaving the one.

Before anyone had dreamt of Sandy Lane, the centrepiece of the main drag of snazzy hotels on the Caribbean Coast, visitors were coming to The Crane, on the southern corner of the Atlantic Coast, just up from Foul Bay. It has offered the same formula for 110 years. The Crane may not appeal to Michael Winner, perhaps (he couldn't possibly spend his £30,000 annual Sandy Lane budget there even if he tried), but it is Barbados's best-kept secret.

You could easily miss it. The chipped pink signpost at the end of the track and the surrounding scrubland look unpromising. There are a handful of vehicles in the car park and no attendants in uniform. The only sign of life is a notice on the wall: "Our Mission Statement: HAPPINESS".

Keep going through the white arches, and the impact is dazzling. High on a cliff, an exquisitely proportioned pool overhangs one of the world's most dramatic beaches. Half a mile of bleached beach stretches out below, the natural beauty unspoiled by a single sunlounger.

But where is everybody? Some people boogyboard in the surf; others kick a football around half-heartedly; a few hardcore tanners are splayed on the sand, fanned by the breeze ... 20 people at the most. The beach is pretty much your own. This is partly because the hotel has only 18 bedrooms, and although daytrippers can spend a day on it for five bajan dollars, it is half an hour's drive from the island's action and few bother. Long may it stay that way.

The Crane is Barbados's oldest resort. Pre-1886, it was a private residence. In the days when it wasn't done for women to be seen swimming in public, the hotel provided a sea-bathing spot for such purposes. The Horse, named after England's horse-drawn bathing machines, is much as it was when it was built in 1769. One can imag-

If your image of Barbados is of sipping ine ladies in voluminous costumes and overpriced cocktails in the company of bathing caps being chaperoned down the steps to take a discreet dip.

Paul Doyle, 49, from Toronto, has managed The Crane for 10 years. He describes his clients as "independent": writers, painters, sculptors, musicians. Those who stay at The Crane can afford to stay anywhere, "but they know what they like and are not worried about what is the accepted thing".

Sculptures are dotted around the grounds. Televisions are available on request, but guests rarely feel the need. Every Tuesday night there is "something on the house for guests to get to know each other", but don't get too excited about themed evenings: there aren't any. Mr Doyle "keeps meaning to fix up the sign", but somehow never gets round to it - and it doesn't really matter. For as Fielding's Guide to the Caribbean put it in 1971 (one of the more recent guidebook entries for The Crane): "This is the place for those who are satisfied with simple pleasures."

In 1936, the author Raymond Savage outlined a suitable way to spend a day at The Crane. At 8am he recommends: "Arrange for a waiter to meet you at the top of the steps bearing a tray on which is an iced nog made of milk, an egg yolk. rum (if not to your liking, brandy), and sugar to taste. Drink delicately through a straw, but do not let it go flat ..." The rest of the day consists of sitting in the sun, sleeping and swimming, rounded off with one or two green swizzles and long, weak whiskies, some flying fish and a frog chorus. He concludes: "A week or two ... will restore the most jaded to a measure of health and strength which is quite remarkable."

The same is true today - but go now. The sad truth is that Mr Doyle has designs on the scrubland, where he hopes to build a host of condominiums.

Crane Beach Hotel, Crane, St Philip (00 1 246 423 6220; fax: 00 1 246 423 5343; e mail: cranebeach@sunbeach.net) is 10 minutes east of Barbados airport. Offpeak rates (April-Dec) are US\$90 (about £56) per night for a room, up to US\$255 (about £159) for a two-bedroom suite. Corresponding peak rates are US\$150 (about £94) and US\$425 (about £265).

GOING TO BARBADOS

Getting there: British Airways (0345 222!!!) and British West Indian Airways (0181-577 IIOO) fly between Heathrow and Barbados: BA also flies from Gatwick. The lowest official fare on BWIA is £762, but discount agents such as Caribbean Connection (0171-344 3000) offer lower fares.

Charter flights are available from Gatwick and Manchester, mostly

catering for inclusive tour customers of companies such as Thomson (0990 502399) and Airtours (054) 500479). Money: sterling is easily convertible to the Barbadian dollar at a rate of about £1 to B\$4.50.

Further information: Barbados Tourism Authority, 263 Tottenham Court Road, London WIP 9AA (0171-636 9448).

INDEPENDENT

WIN special interest break in Garden of England



South East England provides a leave your name and full address: wealth and variety of gardens. Q: Name the garden many of which have a long history as favourities with great gardeners created by the late Vita and garden-makers. This weekend gives you the opportunity to visit some of the

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We have one weekend break based on two people sharing which is to be taken from 12th-14th June 1998. To enter this competition, simply dial the number below, answer the

This Sackville-West.

Call 0930 563554







Calls cost 50p per minute at all bress. Winners picked at random after lines class 6 April 1998. Usual Independent Newspaper rules apply. Editor's decision is final

Relax, you're among friends

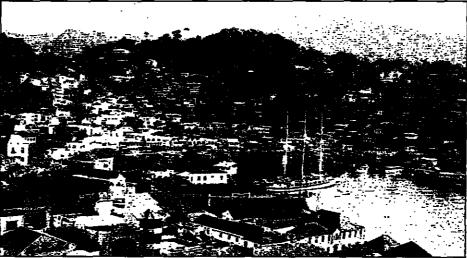
shuffle as we inched towards the airport's immigration desk that we first realised Grenada was such a special place. Hot and tired after the flight, we found a steel band playing an exuberant welcome behind the bougainvillaea, and chilled bottles of the local Carib beer pressed into our hands. The hour we waited to have our passports stamped was spent tapping our feet to the music and watching children spin and twirl.

Grenada is one of the Windward Islands. A little larger than the Isle of Wight, it lies at the bottom of the curve of Caribbean islands which stretch down from Cuba towards Venezuela. Visitors come mainly for the classic beaches (white sand, palms and coral reefs), but there are plenty of other attractions.

The capital, St George's, overlooks a natural harbour. With its whitewashed houses, wrought-iron balconies and redtiled roofs, it has a distinctly Mediterranean feel. Steep. narrow streets lead past stone churches with stained-glass windows. At the top of the hill, overlooking the harbour, is Fort George, guarded by a row of cannons pointing over the bay.

Most of St George's visitors are day-trippers, ferried ashore from the gleaming cruise ships anchored in the bay. Steel bands drum the passengers ashore their custom. Their first stop is the market, noisy and colourful. where bananas, breadfruit, yams and papaya are piled under the shade of black umbrellas. A man brandishing a machete sells coconuts with a

Perhaps it was during the slow Despite a history of conflict, and economic difficulties today, Tina Stallard found Grenada to be the classic paradise island



Bay of plenty: St George's has a natural, bustling harbour

straw to drink the milk. The musky scent of nutmegs, cloves and cinnamon hangs everywhere, a reminder of Grenada's other name, the Spice Island. Away from St George's and

the luxury hotels. Grenada feels more like a third-world country. The roads are a collection of potholes laced together by narrow ribbons of asphalt. Goats and cows are tethered by the roadside and chickens scratch underneath the little wooden houses built on stilts. Children and eager taxi drivers jostle for fill plastic bags with water from standpipes and stagger home

leaving a wet trail behind them. Chapters of history lie behind the names on the map. The town

1651, when they jumped off the cliffs to their death on the rocks below. The mixture of French and English names - Grenville, Lance aux Epines, Woburn and La Sagesse - hints at the series

the island after Christopher Columbus first caught sight of it 500 years ago. The most recent conflict was just 14 years ago. Grenada made

headlines across the world when American troops led an invasion force to crush the Marxist leaders of the People's Revolutionary Government. It was an extraordinary act of muscle-flexing, provoked by the paranoia of the Cold War. The barbed wire preferential prices for Windof Sauteurs got its name from the on the beaches has now gone, desperate attempt of the Carib and the only reminder of the Indians to escape the French in fighting we saw was bullet scars industry to replace it, jobs are

Photograph: Tina Stalland

on buildings near the Cuban-built airport at Port Salines. But there has been longer-term damage. The "intervention", as it is now called, damaged hopes of attracting more foreign tourists of fierce battles for ownership of and investment. Both have been slow to return.

While Grenada was waiting for the tourists to come back, it suffered a further setback. Prices for its main exports, spices and cocoa, collapsed. Soon afterwards there was another blow. For the last 12 months, no bananas have been exported, the result of a World Trade Organisation agreement which ruled against Europe's ward Island produce. With agriculture in decline and little

scarce. But Grenadians seem enchanting aspects of Grenada. resigned rather than angry. Victor, who makes a living weaving baskets from palm leaves, told us that he expected his teenage children to be forced to leave

Like many other Caribbean

the island to find work.

islands, Grenada was formed by volcanic activity. One of the divers. The luxury Italian liner craters of the long-dormant volcanoes is now a take, cradled high in the mountains at about 2.000ft. Known as the Grand Etang, its water shimmers like molten metal, mysterious and uninviting. To get there, we drove up steep, winding roads, past rows of nutmeg and cocoa trees, until we reached the rainforest, wrapped in clouds. We followed narrow paths between the trees around the lake, where giant bamboo towered, whispering and creaking. Ferns and orchids smothered mahogany trees, and scarlet hibiscus flowers dropped to the ground from the dancing branches of the blue mahoe tree.

While we were exploring we often got lost, but never for long. People were quick to give us directions. There was no sense of urgency. The laid-back attitude and slow pace of life were slightly irritating for the first few days. Once we had begun to relar, though, this became one of the most

underwater. Several miles of coral reefs on the west coast mean that scuba diving and snorkelling are popular. The reefs have also claimed numerous wrecks. One of these, the Bianca C, is a magnet for caught fire just outside St

George's in 1961, and later

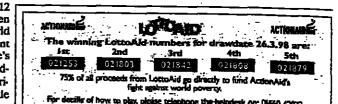
More delights were waiting

sank. Now the ship lies upright on the ocean bed, about 100ft below the surface - not a dive for the novice. Meanwhile, at sunset on dry land, in bars on beaches, visitors order rum punch and play "island spotting", the Caribbean version of trainspotting, comparing the delights of Antigua, Tobago, St Kitts and Barbados. Most of the comparisons, though, favoured Grenada ("less commercial", "people more friendly") and we realised we were the real winners; we

Both British Airways (0345 222111) and Caledonian Airways fly to Grenada. The cheapest flights are on Caledonian Airways through Golden Lion Travel (01293 567 800) with the lowest priced ticket at £311 including tax. The Grenada Board of Tourism is on 0171-370 5164/5.

had found the right island on

our first visit. Beginner's luck.





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manager at the contract of the Bertines in the

1557



the International Tourist Bureau at New Delhi railway station on 11 373 4164

A boat May Day sees the start of the summer schedule on the ferry from John O'Groats to Burwick in Orkney. A day trip from John O'Greats costs £30; from Inversess (starting 1 June) the price is £40, including bus connections. The service is brokable through John O'Groats

Ferries (01955 611353).

tiny capital of the Turks and

Caicos Islands, but eventually

the match was decided. The Ca-

Britain's most forgotten West

lands are as the British West In-

them still to be. Scruffy places

Queen and her representative

the Governor is tempered with

a good deal of impatience with

the Colonial Office - sorry, the

Foreign and Commonwealth

Office - in Whitchall. Here you

find Lilliputian places where the

politics are often bizarre and

life is lackadaisical, and where

the constant temptation to em-

igrate to New York is tempered

by the realisation that it is a

cold, unfriendly city far away.

gets into the blood of outsiders

to such an extent that one au-

gust governor from London

was known to chase the best

looking of the policewomen

round the table of his rickety

and termite-ridden official lodg-

ings - and sometimes catch

them. It is a place where peo-

A weekend trip on the oldest

the world costs around £100,

operational steam locomotive in

including a night of "fun. food and

luxury" at the Sariska Palace Hotel.

The catch with this trip, which is

aboard the Fairy Queen, is that you

have to get to Delhi first. Find out

http://www.icindia.com/fairy, or call

when the next trip is planned at

A crain

In the TCI the local charm

The Turks and Caicos Is-

Indian colony.



Cockburn Town, the seat of

government, where the pre-

sent governor lives blameless-

which is neither grand nor Turk-

ish but is utterly charming and

shyly friendly. The accepted

wisdom is that the name comes

come from Barbary pirates who

For years the islanders made

a precarious living producing

sun-dried sea salt in pans, which

still lie ruined and abandoned

on many islands. The colony's

former arms featured a sailing

ship about to load the "white

gold" which was piled in coni-

cal heaps in the foreground.

When the government had new

flags made during the last cen-

tury, these came back with lit-

tle doors drawn on the conical

white heaps, which a helpful but

misguided London flag-maker

grew sisal grass for rope. But

the bottom has long since fall-

en out of both the salt and the

rope markets. For generations,

wrecking was both a sport and

The islanders also once

had taken for igloos.

knows - or cares.

ble and Wireless team came out iy in Waterloo, his refurbished

on top, and we all drifted off and almost termite-free man-

merrily into the warm night of sion, is on Grand Turk, an island

dies were years ago, and as from the Turk's head cactus

many traditionalists would like which grows here. But it could

with potholed roads where a are supposed to have crossed

certain loyalty to Our Dear the Atlantic. Nobody really

The telephone number for British Airways' new low-cost offshoot, Go, is carefully designed: after the 0845 prefix denoting a local-rate call, the next two digits are intended to look a bit like GO. before the 5-4-3-2-1 countdown familiar to older Manfred Mann

0845 60 54321. Accommodation within Britain for £2 per night is still possible. specifically at three camping barns in the West Pennines operated by

fans. So the number comes out at:

Lancashire Countryside Service. The barus, at Rivington, Darwen and Entwistle Reservoir, have no heating or lighting. You must book in advance by writing to the Great House Barn Information Centre, Rivington Lane, Horwich, Bolton

a livelihood as unwary captains fun and their incomes in jeop-

were lured on to the coral ardy - and, indeed, their sup-

The crown's jewels

SALINA.

HAWKES:

PEANTATION

reefs. The lighthouse on the

north point of Grand Turk was

erected only over the strong ob-

Is it whales, fish and coral you're after, or a luxury gulag? Hugh O'Shaugnessy visits the Turks and Caicos Islands, Britain's most forgotten outpost

CAICOS TRAIL

availability is tricky.

(0181-350 1017).

plies of wood, since no trees

Now these reefs and the

grow on the islands.

There are no direct flights between the UK and the

Turks and Caicos. The best single-airline connection is

on American Airlines (0345 789789) from Heathrow -

Alternatives include flying British Airways (0345

22211) to Nassau or San Juan, or finding a charter to

UK Turks and Caicos tourist office: Mitre House, 66

TIDY THE TURKS

VELOCIME YOU TO GRAND TURK

jections of those who saw their azure sea are once again the is- Grand Turk the other day I saw tel accommodation on Provo is

lands' fortune, as visitors are

diving. At the fine deserted

beach at the Arawak Inn on

CLEAN THE CAICOS

Abbey Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 2RQ

Santo Domingo, and transferring to Providenciales.

fare quoted for travel in May is £679 return, but

and, from next month, Gatwick - via Miami. The lowest

Details of low-cost accommodation elsewhere in the British Isles is contained in the Independent Hostel Guide 1997, itself a bargain at £3.95. Order through the Backpackers' Press, 2 Rockview Cottages, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire DE4 3PG.

"Perhaps the most important restaurant in recent Dublin history, the E&C first cracked the idea of serving spirited, capable food at good prices in an informal context. Dubs have had a love affair with it since day one. The specials of the day allow whoever is in the kitchen

spicy chicken wings are legend, the soundtrack is fixed at mid-period Miles Davis, and you can't book." A review of the Elephant and Castle restaurant in the new Time Out Guide to Dublin (£9.99).

Also in Dublin, the Old Jameson's Distillery, founded in 1780, is now offering tours to the public; the Irish prime minister will open it officially on Monday. It opens daily (except Good Friday and Christmas Day) 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £3.50, students and OAPs £3, children £1.50. It is located close to (and signposted from) the Four Courts. Call 00 353 1 872 5566 for more

A week from now Downe House, the former home of Charles Darwin, reopens in time for Easter. This handsome

to show their newest influences; the English Heritage property has evolved to include an exhibition of the five-year voyage of HMS Beagle. You need to book tickets at least a day in advance, on 0870 603

> A month from now ski in May? According to Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202), you could spend the next bank holiday on the slopes of Val d'Isère. A four-night trip from London City airport costs £399, including selfcatering accommodation.

A year from now the Earth Centre, between Rotherham and Doncaster, is due to open. Calling itself "the first in a new generation of visitor destinations for the 21st century". the former colliery is dedicated to the vision of a sustainable future. Call 01709 512000 for advance information.

Canadian tourists wading of the gilded concentration the muses. A neglected educaashore from a launch, overcome camp variety which aims to tion system means that there are by the experience of seeing a keep the holiday-maker from no indigenous writers, few hump-back whale teaching her week-old calf, weighing no more than a ton or so, to flip and manoeuvre in the water. If no cars 35 years ago, gives Pro-vival as a political entity all the you are a diver or snorkeller. you have to go only a few hundred yards out before the sea plunges down into the abyss 7.000 feet deep that separates Grand Turk from the Caicos Islands. There is fishing, 100. On purchasing a licence (cost US\$10) fishermen can catch in the territory. Generally, though, the TCI marlin of weights of 350lb and

On the island of South Caicos, far from governors and museums, the few tourists have the beaches and the sea to

themselves. Providenciales. Provo for short, is something very different. Discovered two or three decades ago by a rich coterie of Roosevelts and Rockefellers, it bloomed when the British goverament paid for a new airport and persuaded the Club Med to set up along a broad white beach, 12 miles long. There are now 12 hotels there, and a couple of banks. The TCI's only casino is at the Turquoise Reef. but, in deference to the religious

drawn here by some of the convictions of the islanders, it is closed on the Lord's Day. It seems a pity that the hospending any money outside its—artists or indeed many musicians gates. All this new development. in a place that had no roads and vo the feeling of a sort of Basildon New Town in the sun. Job opportunities in tourism and construction are attracting migrants from Haiti, the Dominican Republic and all over the TCl - to the detriment, it must be said, of the smaller islands

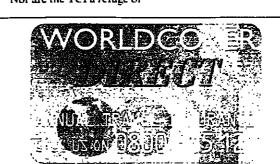
are probably as close as you'll get to a tropical island paradise. That is, if you discount the food. This is not a place for the gournet: local produce is rare. Most food - indeed, almost everything - has to be imported, and is not cheap. As in most of the rest of the Caribbean, no food was served to me which the cooks did not feel could be im-

proved with tomato ketchup. Nor are the TCI a refuge of - an absence of local culture more remarkable. pensated for by the people.

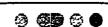
Such shortcomings are comwhose contentment and friendliness are remarkable, "We are just blessed," said an islander on the beach. And he talked with not a trace of self-satisfaction or

Treasure islands: the greatest assets are their azure seas and coral reefs, featuring diving sites in the world Photographs:) Henderson/

Hutchison Library







The wild waves of the west



Once more on to the beach: the windswept outlook from

For bracing walks on lonely, breathtakingly beautiful beaches and cliffs, Sue Wheat made for the

Getting away from it all: that was what we wanted. So we hired a cottage for the weekend on the western tip of Wales. Arrangements were one thing, locating the place late on a Friday night was quite another. We found our cottage by a combination of luck and design. Careful map-reading helped us locate the tiny village of Rhodian-y-Brennan, just outside St David's. And while sitting in the car looking at a line drawing of the house we suddenly realised that we were mysteriously parked outside it. Almost on the stroke of midnight, we'd

The next day we all slept in till noon. Cottages seem to do that to you, especially those with no TV, radio or stereo. And no central heating. This meant that we nurtured the wood burner in the lounge as you would a small child. We hardly left it alone for a second, scared that if we neglected it, it would slump into a sulk. So we flicker to fury.

Finally we levered ourselves into the afternoon sunshine. St David's was our first stop, two miles down the road. As it has a it was officially given this title only in 1995), but there are few bright lights here. No doubt in summer tourists swarm around Britain's most miniature city, but at this time of year it felt as though we had stumbled rudely back into the world of today.

across a precious secret - particularly the 12th-century cathedral, made partly of local purple stone, and complete with an intricately latticed, Irish oak ceiling. St David huddled around it transfixed, making en- himself is reputedly buried here, although couraging oohs and aahs as it flitted from recently questions have been asked as to whether the bones really are his.

A few steps across the tiny River Arun, which runs behind the cathedral, is the 14thcentury Bishop's Palace. Rooks circle cathedral it is technically a city (although above the ruins, and a large, central grass quadrangle fringed by ruined buildings creates an enchanted walled garden. As we scrambled around exploring, my mobile phone squawked sacrilegiously; it shook me

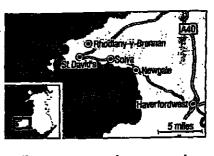
wind was fighting its corner. We bought hats. If we were going to venture out on a coastal walk we had to be prepared, we were told by the man in the sportswear shop, who advised us to start our exploring at the lifeboat station. We might see seals there, he said, and we could walk along the famous coastal cliff walk.

The lifeboat station, marked as such on every map but signposted as St Justinian's Harbour, is two miles due west of the city. A ruined chapel, a weatherboard lifeboat as if I'd been transported to the scepe in boating weather.

The sun was shining bravely, but the The French Lieutenant's Woman where Meryl Streep stands in a cloak looking soulfully out to sea (though the film's location was Lyme Regis in Dorset, rather than Wales). Dressed in fleeces, trainers and strange hats, we hardly had the same grace, but the evocative atmosphere was

Across the water we saw the shadow of Ramsey Island, the destination for a host of pleasure trips in the summer. When we had asked about the tours in St David's we had received rather pitiful looks. Looking station and a ticket but for the boat trips down on the sea bashing mercilessly at the that run in season are all that is there. I felt rocks, we realised why. This was not jolly

We managed a walk of a few hundred yards along the coastal path. The view was warm, but the wind was winning. It being brushed off the edge, we turned back, and deciding on a safer place to marvel at the sea view, we headed for Whitesand Bay. As we drove down the steep road towards it, we turned a bend and gasped at the huge white banks of froth beating at the bay. We and watched the sun set behind the unreachable Ramsey Island.



There were better views to come, how ever, and over the weekend the "it-takesyour-breath-away" gasp became commonplace. At Solva, on the way to Haverfordwest, we walked from the Harbour House Hotel on the edge of the village and followed an inlet down to the sea. We reached a smooth sandy beach at the mouth of the bay surrounded by huge, multicoloured rocks, and clambered into vast caves lining the bay. We saw no other tourists, just a few local people walking their dogs.

The most stunning view was on that of Newgale Sands. This hit us between the eyes as we drove towards Haverfordwest. Here was a beach about a mile long with no one on it save a rider on a sleek brown horse, cantering down the whole length. We climbed over the shingle embankment which surrounds the beach and ran down across the bay was magnificent and the sun to the sand. Faced with so much unspoilt space, it was hard to know what to do. My pushed us into the cliff-side and swirled friends ran and circled the sandy strip, around our freshly covered ears. Fearing wheeling around like the rooks we'd seen at the Bishop's Palace. I walked, daunted by the vastness, and made my way up to the water's edge. The sea seemed to beckon us in. My courage simmered on the verge of impetuousness - only mad dogs and tourists would even contemplate this. had the beach to ourselves, so we stood in I pulled my new, too-big hat down over my a line and looked out to sea, as tourists do, ears and common sense took over: romanticism stopped just short of suicide by hypothermia.

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Celtic Italy: Portmeirion, the bizarre Italianate village built by Clough Williams-Ellis in the Twenties

A mystical magical tour

North Wales: what a daft place to put a seaside resort. Llandudno is the kind of town where the first wisp of cloud in a clear blue sky introduces a torrential downpour.

Only when you look back on the esplanade from the Great Orme hills just west of town, do you begin to understand. Those perfect, curving stucco terraces were built in an age when the Costa del Sol was not an option. Llandudno is a place where people kept their ankles covered.

And outside the warmest months of the year, it still is. I saw more sheep on the pavements than people. The resort waits until April to begin getting its kit off. The pier, the highlight of any British seaside resort. has been closed for repairs over the winter but is due to reopen at Easter, the centuryold Great Orme tramway, which trundles up the hills overlooking the town, opened for the season last weekend, while the cable car that glides up into those same hills is still thinking about it.

But, sadly, the wind will continue to blow cold off the sea until June at least and, personally, I advise trippers to north Wales to ks on the shore. Get on the train instead, and try out the following easy circuit, arriving in England at the end of the day. Well, you'll arrive if you can work out the timetables. Welsh trains are so small and local that not many people know whether (or where) they run. The Conwy valley line, from Llandudno through Snowdonia to Blaenau? A clerk at Llandudno had no idea. A call to National Rail Enquiries tentatively cleared up the matter: I went to catch the train at 10.17am.

It turned out that on Sundays they run a substitute bus. "Not too many passengers Sundays," remarked the driver as I boarded. The two of us - the driver and I - were soon chugging alongside Conwy Bay, through heather-bound valleys under glowering skies. Edward I's monstrous Conwy Castle came and went, and we began climbing into the wild heart of Snowdonia. The main stop in the middle of the park was Llanrwsi, a dripping-wet village surrounded by feres and bracken and rushing streams, and the launch pad for 1,000 Snewdon treks.

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Property of the second second

For the best views of north Wales, says Jeremy Atiyah, put the coast behind you and head for the bleak hills

NOTES FROM THE WELSH OVERGROUND

On days when the trains are running, eight narrow-gauge railway networks gather together under the banner of "The Great Little Trains of Wales". A Wanderer ticket is valid for unlimited travel on any four days out of eight, price £28, or eight days out of 15, £38.

The line that Jeremy Atiyah missed out on performs a useful function as the missing link between the Mid and North Wales rail networks. The B-mile Ffestiniog Railway (01766 512340) runs from the grown-up station at Blaenau

place to change trains to rejoin BR is Minffordd. A one-way ticket is £6.40. On Sundays, it is impossible to complete the loop to or from the north coast because no trains run between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llandudno.

Ffestiniog to Porthmadog; the best

Wales & West Railways operates most of the standard-gauge trains in Wales. It has rail pass deals, such as the Mid Wales Day Ranger, covering the lines from Wolverhampton to Pwllheli and Chester to Shrewsbury.

NOTES FROM THE WELSH UNDERGROUND

it's not as easy as it was to scratch couple of mines closed to the public. The world's biggest state mine in Blaenau Ffestiniog is no longer open to visitors; neither is the Gwynfynydd gold mine, the main source of Welsh gold, where visitors used to pan for the precious metal and keep what they found. There are still a couple of

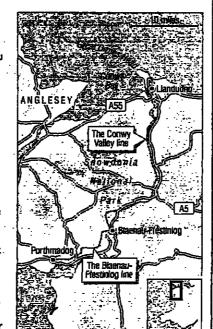
opportunities for going underground. In the Rhondda valley, the Big Pit Mining Müseum in Blaenafon (01495 790311) describes the story of the coal industry in Wales in the days when the country had one. It opens daily at 10am, with the last tour at 3.30pm: £5.50 adults, £3.75 for children (who must be at least five).

The Sygun copper mine in Beddgelert (01766 510100) describes the history and geology of mining the metal. It is located beside the A498 in Snowdonia, and opens daily from 10.30am to 4pm. Adults £4.50, children £3.

Simon Calder

inp to £2million

£25.000



Finally, we came down through the remote pastures of the Lledr valley to Blaenau. The barren, heaped-up rubble from a century and a half of slate-quarrying entirely surrounds this benighted town. I think it would look a lot better under snow. Cottages in the high street go for £35,000.

What Blaenau does have, though, is a scenic railway. As well as being the terminus of the Conwy valley line, it is the jumping-on point for the narrow-gauge Blaenau-Ffestiniog line. Opened in 1836 to lug all that slate down to the sea, this descends the 640ft to Porthmadog in just 13 miles. These days it's a steam-engine job, having been restored for the benefit of tourists in 1982. Me? I took the bus (the train cost £12 one way) but I did have the pleasure of seeing the steam engine in a siding. with men in frock coats and toppers clambering over the engine.

The bus to Porthmadog incidentally also went via Portmeirion, a bizarre Italianate village built in the Twenties by the architect Clough Williams-Ellis. If you get off, you can see what Wales would have looked like d we remained a Roman colony. It is a one-hour downhill walk from here through trees to Porthmadog, where the first thing I heard was a pair of school kids abusing each other in Welsh. Later I found bus drivers trying and failing to express themselves in English. This was Wales all right. Having admired the boats in the harbour and the views over Snowdon. I set off on the next leg of my journey - along the Cambrian Line. down the west coast. It was then that I discovered just how unspoilt is the Cambrian coast. My nomination for the remotest station in Britain goes to Dovey Junction - a mere platform in the middle of nowhere.

The only trouble with doing the journey in this direction is that the wild coasts and magical valleys of Wales are soon replaced by the West Midlands. Go too fast, and before you know it you're in Birmingham. No danger of that for me. The day I travelled, a bewildering succession of substitute buses had been laid on to cope with a familiar Welsh problem - torrential rain had led to flooding on the line.

Lift up your eyes unto the hills...

Weekend walk: from Black Hill to Bright Vale. Catherine Stebbings takes a hike around Llanthony Priory and the Vale of Ewyas

faint-hearted, but it provides a great day out along the high ridge of Charwel-y-Fan and along the peaceful Vale of Ewyas, with a pub lunch and a wander around the imposing ruins of Llanthony

Start in the village of Capel-y-Fiin (about seven miles from Hay-on-Wye) at the enchanting whitewashed church of St Mary's. Glance inside to see the engraved glass window by Eric Gill. Here you read the words "I will lift up mine eves unto the hills from whence cometh my help", and sure enough, through the window the huge, heather-clad mountains rise dramatically heavenwards.

Leaving the churchyard, cross the road diagonally and follow the sign to the Grange Trekking Centre. Turning left to the riding centre, you pass the ruins of Llanthony Monastery. This was established by a Victorian churchman, Joseph Lyne, to restore the monastic tradition to the Church of England. He died before his dream was realised and the community closed in the Twenties. The remains of the monastery became home to the notorious commune founded by Eric Gill.

After the riding centre, follow the bridle path left up a stony track, keeping a small wood on your left. From here turn right towards the daunting ridge and follow the path, a swath of green that winds up the hill amid the rocks and heather. This is the only steep climb on the walk; if you lose the path, just keep scrambling upwards.

Once on the top, the path is easily recognisable; follow that to the summit, which is marked by a large cairn. Enjoy the views of the tiny patchwork of fields that sprawl along the valley to the north east. To the north west a huge reservoir is restrained by a massive dam, and there is a stretch of woodland running to the west.

Turning to the south east, follow the ridge along a well-trodden path. The raw ground cover of heather and whinberry provides a perfect habitat for upland birds, so watch out for raven. merlin and grouse. Follow the ridge for about three miles, until you reach the trig point of Bel Mawr where, weather permitting, you may see the ruins of Llanthony Priory deep in the valley beand the Skerrin, two distinctive that dominate the horizon. Follow the path as it begins to descend, until you reach another cairn at Bal-bach. Llanthony.

When the path narrows, take the right-hand fork and follow a steep, stony path beside the stream. Once you have passed from the stony hillside into pasture land, the way is well marked with signposts and yellow arrows. A series of stiles, with adjacent dog gates, helps you. Length: About eight miles, with a very pick your way across the fields among grazing sheep.

You finally enter the village across a bridge beside a farmyard, welcomed by a chorus of guinea-fowl, howling dogs and inquisitive ponies. Cross the road and turn right towards the priory.

The Priory at Llanthony is said to date from the sixth century. The hermitage and church were consecrated in 1108, though much of the building

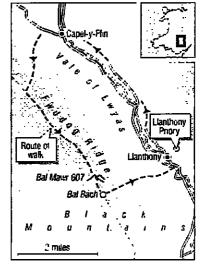
This spectacular walk is not for the dates from the 13th century. The priory was abandoned after the dissolution of the monasteries, and today what remains of the lodgings and the one tower have been converted into a small hotel, nestling among the towering ruins of the former structure. Services are still held in the small Norman church of St David opposite the gates.

Just across the field from the priory is the Half Moon Inn. a welcome stop before turning homeward. Try their strongest brew, named Son of a Bitch.

Leaving the pub. turn left and then take the right-hand fork marked "no through road". This access road is quiet, and easy underfoot. The narrow lane winds up the valley alongside the river, offering idvllic glimpses of sheep and ponies grazing, and buzzards scouring the land for easy pickings.

The road comes to an end, but follow the track through a gate and continue through the fields and woods before joining another peaceful road. This gradually peters out into farm tracks beside various farmhouses.

The last farmhouse is The Vision, so called because one of its inhabitants saw a vision of the Virgin Mary above the house. It was made even more famous by Bruce Chatwin, who set his raw account of the lives of Welsh sheep farmers. On the Black Hill, here. Yet the rubbish-strewn streams, discarded oil



low. Ahead you will see the Sugar Loaf cans, broken-up cars and occasional any sentimental appreciation of the

Follow the track past The Vision un-Turn left down an obvious path towards til it crosses a little stream and another track.

Contrary to what the arrows indicate, turn left following the track down to the river, across a footbridge, until it joins the main road into Capel-y-Ffin a few hundred vards farther on.

steep ascent and descent. Time taken: three hours to pub, two hours back, at a leisurch pace.

Ordnance Survey map: Landranger 161. Publications showing other walks in the area are Walks from Llanthony Priory, National Park Office, 50p, and Pub Walks in the Brecon Beacons National Park , by Derck Phillips, £2.50. Both from Tourist Information Service, Abergavenny (01873)

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explore and be rewarded at every turn. Flights are from Heathrow to Venice by British Midland scheduled seat configured Boeing 737 aircraft every Saturday. We have chosen as our base two splendid hotels: the 3-star Hotel Excelsior Splendid is located in the centre of Bellagio in front of the lake and all 47 rooms have ensuite facilities, telephone and television. The superior 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio located right on the lake and built in classical style. There is a large swimming pool, fine restaurant and many majes tic more and its 56 heautifully appointed rooms

all have full ensure facilities. On Day 8 return to Venice in the morning for a Grand Canal.

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Why go now?

Vienna's bitter-sweet symphony is best experienced in late spring, when winter's deep chill has receded and the tourist stampede is still a distant hum. Elegant old ladies, reflected in Baroque coffee-house mirrors tucking into indulgent cakes, may be the prevalent image of this most cultured of cities, but Vienna has more verve than you might expect.

Beam down

Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) and British Airways (0345 222111) from Heathrow; BA and Lauda Air (0171-630 5924) from Gatwick; Lauda from Manchester. You'll be hard pressed to find a price significantly below £200; I paid just twice that for a Lauda Air ticket from Gatwick to Bangkok which allowed a Vienna stopover on the way home.

Get your bearings

Vienna is an orderly city with an excellent publie transport system. The Modernist Wien Schwechat Airport lies 19km east of the centre. Trains from the airport run twice an hour and cost about £1.30 for the 30-minute journey. A taxi will set you back about £20 but may be quicker. You'll be spending most of your time sightseeing in the Innerne Staat (first district) which is easily - and rewardingly - navigated on foot.

Check in

a problem. For location and tradition, Hotel delic metal sculptures scattered around the site. Sacher, just behind the State Opera on Philharmonikerstrasse (00 43 1 51456) justifies the extravagance of its £100-£200-a-night tab. More frugal alternatives include the dozens of small and friendly pensions scattered around and just outside the Innere Staat. For example, Pension Krami (00 43 1 587 85 88), located in a typically Viennese house, offers clean and comfortable doubles with shared bathroom for the equivalent of £15 per night, including breakfast.

leisurely stroll along the Ringstrasse, a 4km-long boulevard containing an embarrassment of architectural gems. Emperor Franz Joseph I's outrageously grandiose plans to reflect the wealth A night at the opera what was achieved - from the giant marbled halls of the Museum of Fine Arts to the Greek revivalist exterior of the Austrian parliament building, not to mention the City Hall university, and National Every weekend, the city hosts classical concerts European art movement.

rial ego. The colossal Hofburg Palace, from where annual Vienna International Festival (mid Maythe Habsburgs ruled for more than 600 years, is June: 00 43 1 586 1676) is regarded as the highalso here, operating as headquarters for both the Vienna Boys Choir (queues start at around 8am for standing room at the 9:15am Sunday morning mass in the Royal Chapel) and the Spanish Riding School (tickets to see the Lipizzaner stallions' equestrian excellence range from £10 to £40). The double whammy of traditional and artnoveau architecture ensures a fresh perspective at every twist and turn. At night, it's impossibly romantic.

Viennese society is fuelled by caffeine and sugar. If you want to assimilate, don't balk at the strength of the coffee or start calorie-counting the cakes. Most coffee houses in the first district are of the upmarket, rococo-style décor variety and the palatial surroundings of Cafe Central (I Herrengasse) are perfect for people-watching from behind a bowl of old-fashioned potato soup.

Movie time

The Prater amusement park provided the dramatic backdrop to the most memorable scene in The Third Man, when Holly Martins confronts Harry Lime (Orson Welles) in the shadow of the imand Julie Delpy smoothed inside a cable car in the slacker romance Before Sunrise. The Prater Finding luxury accommodation in Vienna is never—itself is worth exploring for the macabre psyche-

For an even more evocative Third Man experience, relive the final chase sequence in the labyrinth-like depths of Vienna's sewer system. Book ahead for this one, on 00 43 1 79 514.

Demure dinner

Piaristenkeller Restaurant (Piaristengasse 45) is in the former wine caves beneath an imposing Baroque church. It is Austria's oldest concert restaurant and its cultural heritage is reflected in the cuisine, wine list and music. For civilised An absolute essential of any Vienna trip is a dining this takes some beating, but if you can't afford the steep prices, tours of the wine cellars inspired by the make-believe aesthetic codes of are available most nights (call 00 43 1 406 01930). Alice in Wonderland or Hansel and Gretel. Ac-

of the Habsburg empire during the late 19th cent- While Austria mourns the loss of Falco, the vibration to man". But what of the grass on the ury were eventually halted by World War II but anation's only modern pop star, who died in a car ceiling? Hippie or visionary: discuss over sour crash last November, it continues to pay homage to its more golden oldies - Mozart. Beethoven. perusing the Cobra exhibition (until 3 May) which Haydn. Schubert, Strass. Brahms, Mahler ... marks the 50th anniversary of the experimental

Theatre - pays testament to the power of impe- and ballets, some free, while the forthcoming light of the year.

The ultimate in aural pleasure is, perhaps, a night at the opera, although advance tickets for the Stautsoper (00 43 1 5144429) can be expensive. However if you're prepared to wait a few hours before evening performances, standing places are on offer for the proverbial song (a few quid).

A night on the tiles

Don your Helmut Lang suit (the clean lines of Austria's hippest designer are sold at his hometown store at 8 Seilergasse) and head for the central zone of the Danube Canal, known after dark as the "Bermuda Triangle", as drinkers disappear into the numerous bars and clubs. Despite Vienna's sedate reputation things can get pretty lively, especially on Saturday nights. Best bett im-bibe copious quantities of the palatable weissbier (wheat beer).

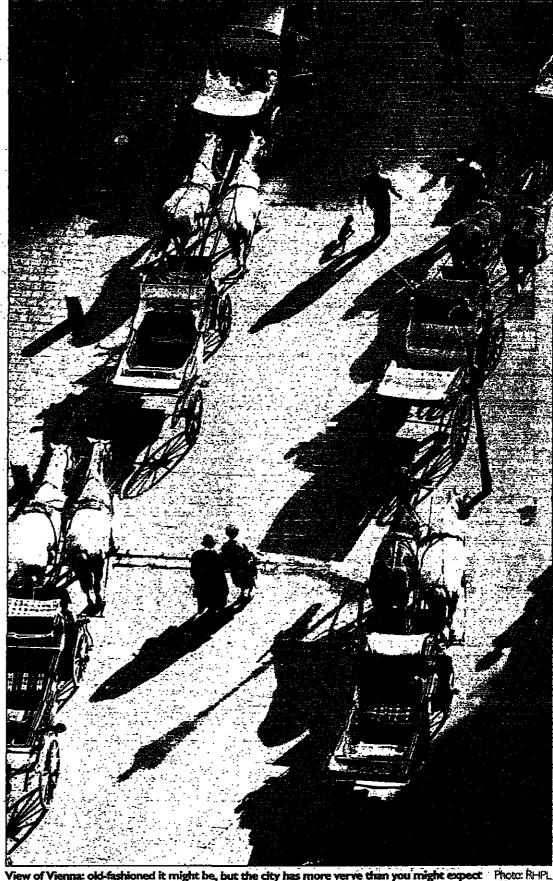
Sunday morning: go to church

Local folklore maintains that natives of Vienna start to feel homesick as soon as they lose sight of St Stephen's latticework spire. The Gothic masterpiece is a focal point for all visitors, but if a full Sunday service seems a bit much, try a tour posing Ferris wheel. More recently, Ethan Hawke of the church's catacombs, which include a mass grave and a bone house. Alternatively, a 343-step spiral staircase gives access to a great cityscape. There's currently some restoration work in progress, but the church remains a must-see.

A couple of minutes' walk from St Stephen's, bitesized sandwiches are available from the deli counter of Trezniewski (1 Dorotheergasse), once the hang-out of Kafka. Despite the touristy Currently celebrating its 300th anniversary, the notoriety, there's still something of a bo-ho spirit within the cramped Art Deco interior as you're served tiny Pliff measures of Pils from the bar.

Icing on the cake

KunstHausWicn museum, the invention of the maverick architect Hundertwasser, is seemingly cording to Hundertwasser, the uneven floors are "a melody for the feet, and bring back natural cherry strudel in the adjacent cafe, or while



View of Vienna: old-fashioned it might be, but the city has more verve than you might expect. Photo: RHP

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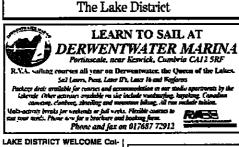
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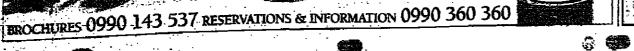
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Gone with the wind

Once you've got over your first ducking it isn't long before you're hooked on sailing. Eric Kendall messes about in a dinghy

Once upon a time, boats were all about keeping out of the water, things you sat in, while the lake stayed on the other side of the planks. Nowadays you can forget that idea for a start, and planks are out of the question, too.

Maybe it is the windsurfing influence, or a general tendency to cut corners, but today's dinghy sailors are expected to make do with a wood-free boat which can have as much water in it as a reasonable-sized jacuzzi, even before it turns over.

The thing is, it doesn't matter; modern sailing dinghies have built-in buoyancy chambers that work, just like Titunic didn't, so sinking isn't an issue. As for getting wet, that's half the fun, If you don't capsize a couple of times, you're not trying.

It is a straightforward, confrontational approach: if turning turde is the worst thing that can happen while sailing a boat (it's right up there with lightning strikes or being bifted on the head by the boom), then doing so at an early stage means you have nothing much left to fear, so the theory goes. It leaves you free to concentrate on techniques such as going about and steering in a straight line... Though these skills were always learns in a hands-on way, it used to be done in a more controlled fashion, with someone who knew what they were doing at the helm. Crew members would only get a taste of how to steer after serving time trimming the jib. Now you are thrown in at the deep end, though wetsuits are provided.

Heading off alone in a dinghy may seem daunting to a beginner, but it is fine if you are naive enough not to realise what's involved - you will soon find out. The obvious shortcomings of sail power - that you can only go in certain directions, according to the wind - aren't even discussed before launching.

Though the whole business is relatively simple on paper, I could feel two left feet coming on the moment we started rehearsing the day's first manoeuvre: "going about" (changing direction). It is a simple procedure; push the tiller away from you. duck under the boom as the sail swings across from one side of the boat to the other, and sit on the opposite side of the boat. Fine if you are only three feet six tall, but challenging for anyone bigger.

Hanging about, even momentarily, on the same side of the boat as the sail creates an imbalance that can only end in a dunking, so you scurry from one side to the other while trying to disengage yourself from the main sheet (the rope that controls the sail and ties itself around your



In touch with the elements: sailing is a complete assault on the nerve-endings

Photographs Telegraph Colour Library

limbs) and attempting to steer at the same time. In fact, by not thinking too hard about it and following to the letter whatever of the shouted instructions you can hear, it is not hard to go to and fro over a short stretch, across the wind. Nobody is judging your style, and even that comes once you get the knack of steering with the tiller behind your back, as you must from time to time.

The best of it, as you start to enjoy yourself between turns, is that you realise why sailors get so excited about their sport. The boat is incredibly responsive, small enough that you feel part of it, and the sensation of smooth, quiet speed is out of all proportion to how fast you are actually moving.

With the power being transmitted through the

more in touch with the wind and the waves all at once. If you are lucky, you might even have the sun on your face, to complete the elemental assault on your nerve-endings. All it takes at this point is a brief burst of heeling at an angle, leaning out over home, remembering (if the wind is blowing towards.) the water to counterbalance the force on the sail and Rod Stewart crooning away in your mind's ear, to be hooked.

From here onwards, it is about learning just how than steer, to make efficient headway against the wind (tacking). Then comes running with the wind behind you - simple but slightly precarious as the Thanks to Charles Wand-Tetley and Julian Pearson main sheet from the sail, and steering feedback sail can flip from one side to the other astonish- at Queen Mary Sailsports.

coming directly through the tiller, you couldn't get ingly quickly, in which case you have gybed, which comes just before capsizing.

Finally, having righted the dinghy simply by pulling on the daggerboard, which protrudes through the bottom of the boat, you can head for _ the shore) that instead of applying brakes you have to turn back into the wind at the last minute. This is the most finely judged manoeuvre of all; too late and you will go halfway up the bank with much close to the wind you can sail - you obviously can't scraping, loss of face (and possibly loss of deposit); go straight into it - and what you have to do, other too soon, and you don't end up parking at all, but head offshore once more.

LEARNING TO SAIL

The Royal Yachting Association (01703 627400) has details of approved schools all over the UK. Queen Mary Sailsports (01784 248881) uses the largest body of water within the M25 (Queen Mary Reservoir, near Staines) to run courses at all levels, including one-day casters.

Beginners can learn in Laser Pico singlehanders; or if you don't want to get wet; they also use larger dinghies where the instructor is on board. The RYA level one course takes two days; level two takes a further three days, and gives a recognised certificate allowing you to hire boats. Make sure that wetsuits are available if learning on singlehanders, and take a windproof jacket, change of clothes, towel and old training shoes for wearing in/on the water.

Modern entry-level dinghies are built to be easy to rig and sail, but perform well; they also need little maintenance. Racing is a major part of the scene for many dingly sailors, but it is not obligatory. At the most extreme end of the scale, the Laser 5000 gives the ultimate ride - getting out on the wings, dangling from a trapeze is as: far from the conventional view of pootting about in boats as you could get.



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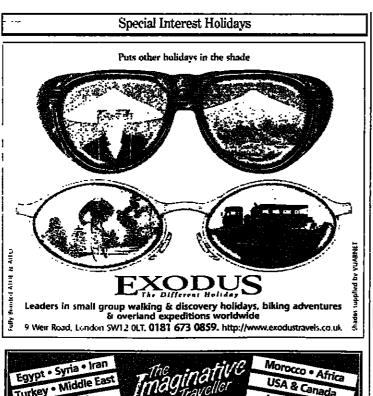
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9/TRAVEL: BRITAIN

See performing cows and sheep; make friends with a chicken. Louise Duffield on an unusual family day out

Down at the farm and a day out at the beach are two great attractions for children, and at the White Post Modern Farm Centre you can have both - all the more surprisingly since the farm centre is in the middle of landlocked Nottinghamshire.

The centre at Farnsfield is a working farm. Alongside the traditional inhabitants - cows, sheep and pigs - are rheas, llamas, crayfish and deer. Children are encouraged to get to know the animals, and even have the chance to hold baby rabbits, guinea-pigs, chicks and ducklings. Watch out for parents who are keen to muscle in on this one.

Each barn holds a different treat. There's the popular hatching centre, where you can watch a chick take its first glimpse of the outside world, the farrowing shed full of newborn piglets, the night-time walk where owls stare as you saunter past, and the house with its albino toad, display of busy ants and unusual reptiles.

For children who fancy an alternative to animals, the beach barn offers a simple. covered area full of sand where youngsters can kick off their shoes and socks and have a good dig. Outside, a play area features Claire Milton, a teacher from Nottingham,



Where to play piggy-in-the-middle

an unusual slide, sit-on tractors for children, went with her son Alex, six, and daughter plank races, a water tower and a straw barn. Briony. four.

At certain times of year the farm's owner, Tim Clark, puts on a unique show using some of his sheep, goats and cows. Each animal comes on stage and makes its way to its own spot on a specially built pyramid, as Tim tells the audience a bit about that particular breed.

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Claire: It's paradise for children. There are a good four to five hours' entertainment here, with something of interest for everyone - for example, the beach barn is a good idea because children love playing in sand. Everything is labelled, and the inform-

ation is excellent, though some of the signage looks a bit tired. Whoever wrote the Alex: I would like to live here because it signs has a good sense of humour. They even has got really good things that you can read

talk about rabbits getting married and about as well. I want to come again. There having babies, which uses language that children understand.

There is a lot of active involvement and good exposure to animals. I liked the show because it was informative. The animals seemed happy, well looked after and loved. When you see the hatching of the chicks, it's like a little miracle at work.

was a really good show on, with cows, goats and sheep. We sang "Old MacDonald Had a Farm". The show was the best bit, when the animals came in one at a time.

I'm going to tell friends about the really good sand pit and the really good playground, I went on a big slide. It was as high as a very old oak tree. I liked the toys in the shop. I bought a tape measure.

Briony: I thought it was levely. My and two of the National Curriculum.

Pork scratchings: each barn at the Farnsfield centre holds a treat - from hatching chicks to tiny piglets

Photograph: John Voos

favourite things were the pigs, because they were little. I clapped at the show. The man got different animals in. I sat next to my mum and I had a little chick held in my hands. I thought it was wonderful. It didn't bite me - it liked me.

The White Post Modern Farm Centre is at Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, (01623 882977). Open daily, 10am-5pm weekdays, 10am-opm weekends.

Admission: adults £3.95, children (4-16). senior citizens and people with special needs

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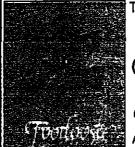
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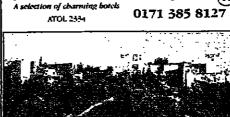
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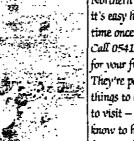
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And so to bed with the Duke

The stuff of ... antique linen bedclothes and French traditional quilts. By Sally Staples

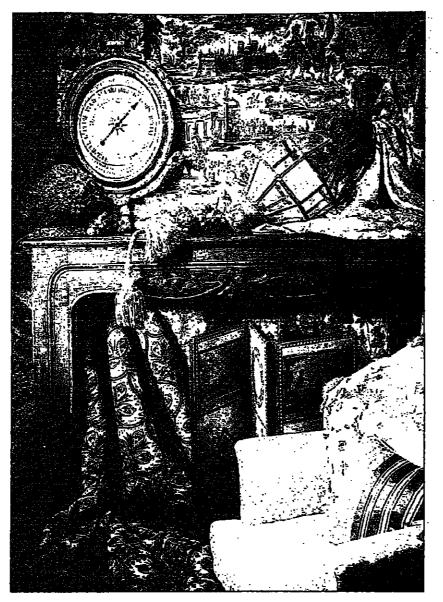
Antique linen sheets that once graced the beds of French nobles are the unusual speciality of Nicole Fabre, a vibrant Frenchwoman whose shop in London's King's Road draws a discerning clientele.

Many of the coarser antique linen sheets can be made into curtains and cushion covers, and some have been dved the rich blue colour of "king's gold" - l'or bleu - in the time-honoured French way. using a special pastel paint.

But the finest linen, with handembroidered monograms and motifs, is bought to use as sheets. Some of these pieces date from 1860 and are sold singly at prices between £85 and £140, depending on the quality of the embroidery.

Upstairs, the shop has an eclectic collection of antique French furniture on display. But downstairs are shelves stacked full of linen and French toile quilts known as indiennes - the French equivalent of chintz. All date from around 1880 and are in a range of delicate colours, often favouring Provençal design.

"I go to France regularly to stock up. but I won't touch anything I don't like personally," says Nicole, "Everything I buy is hand-washed with soap and water, and laid out to dry on grass in the sun. If it is win-



ter, and there is a stain on the fabric, we This is a full set of magnificent bedclothes must lay the material out to dry at night. when there is a full moon and a frost - and I promise you in the morning the stain will tale, but it works.

All the linen is passed through an oldfashioned mangle before making its way to kets (£52 each) and replica 18th-century Nicole's London shop. Here many people trays and tissue boxes (£25 each), covered ask her advice on how to decorate their in a range of pretty toile fabric. homes with a country farmhouse look. The coloured quilts can be used as wall hangings, or thrown casually over the back of

Nicole's piece de résistance is not for sale.

use the ancient way of dealing with it. You made in 1762 for the Duke of Orléans, brother to Louis XV of France. For this the town of Orleans has made her an offer she cannot refuse - and so the royal bedlinen have vanished. People think it's an old wives' will shortly be on display there in a

The shop also sells waste-paper bas-

Nicole Fabre is at 592 King's Road, London SW6 2DX (0171-384 3112). Her shop is open Monday to Friday, 10am-opm, and Saturday,

The nectar of the Aztecs

The taste of ... Belgium. Choosing chocolate for Easter? Go for the best. writes Nikki Spencer

The beverage "tchocolath" was discovered centuries ago among the Aztecs by the Spaniard Hernando Cortes, but it did not immediately appeal because of its bitter taste. (Apparently the Spanish did not take kindly to the hot peppers the Aztecs added). The conquistadors learnt, however, to change the spicy drink into a smooth nectar by adding sugar, cinnamon, and honey or vanilla.

Chocolate arrived in Europe in about AD1520 where, after some initial opposition from the church (it was condemned as satanic in 1616), it found favour with the nobility. It was drunk in water-based liquid form for many years until milk and sugar were added in 1847, when the first bars of chocolate were also produced. Pralines, the filled chocolates for which the Belgians are now so famous, came soon afterwards, when the Swiss chocolate-maker Jean Neuhaus arrived in Brussels in 1857.

Visitors to Belgium today can not only tour the largest chocolate factory in the world (Callebaut, in Weize, just outside Brussels); they can also trace the history of chocolate at the Musée du Cacao et du Chocolat (766 Chaussée d'Alsemberg, 1180 Brus-

The reason the Belgians give for their success in the chocolate world is government legislation. In 1870, Belgium's strict health department defined chocolate as being a blend of cocoa beans and sugar. Only products which respected this particular definition could be sold as chocolate. and severe controls were strictly applied. The chocolate makers were therefore obliged to abandon cheap products and seek success in high



While these rich chocolates have

Sweet creations: chocolate is not

just for puddings, as Belgo's alternative concoctions show

always been popular in Belgium, they only really started to take off in the UK about 15 years ago, when exclusive brands became available in upmarket stores such as Harrods and Selfridges. It's a sign of the popularity of Belgian chocolates that most supermarkets have now produced their own version, though these have been adapted for the British palate.

Chocolate with a difference Increasingly, chocolate is not just for puddings. Asparagus with white chocolate sauce, confit of duck with dark chocolate and cherry sauce, and fillet of halibut poached in a white chocolate cream sauce, are on the menu at Belgo's two London restaurants from 8 to 14 April. Two chocolate-filled courses cost £12. If you need pudding after that, three courses cost £15. Belgo Centraal, 50 Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-813 2233); Belgo Noord, 72. Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (0171-267 0718) • Forget hot chocolate; what about

something stronger? As well as the usual selection of eggs and cakes (and giant-sized hot cross buns), this Easter Asda has Cain Chocolate Ale, brewed with real chocolate, at £1.49 for 500ml.

 How about basil-flavoured chocolate? The shop that is a temple for chocolate worshippers in London, Rococo, 321 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 5857) is doing a roaring trade in what it calls Artisan Bars - 75g bars of dark chocolate flavoured with chilli peppers, pink peppercorns, Earl Grey tea, etc

GAMES

AT THE SHALLOW END OF THE GENE POOL WILLIAM HARTSTON SURVEYS THIS YEAR'S DARWIN AWARDS

A report appeared on the Reuters news wires this week concerning a Toronto man who is suing a plastic surgeon for an operation that allegedly went wrong. The man, identified only as "ST", said that the surgeon had not told him that the penis-lengthening procedure he was undertaking involved attaching heavy weights to his penis after the surgery. Quite apart from being left with a scarred and deformed penis, ST complained of considerable embarrassment when, on one occasion, the weights came loose and fell through his trousers in a public place.

Had this all happened a few months earlier, it might well have been a late entrant for the 1997 Darwin Awards, which were announced last Wednesday - on April Fool's Day. As the official website for these Internet-based honours explains: "The Darwin Awards are giv-

en, usually posthumously, to the individuals who remove themselves from the gene pool in the most spectacular fashion. However, there is an exception to the requirement to die. If said individual does not die, however does render him/herself incapable of producing any children, they may be eligible for the dubious honour of receiving the award while still alive.

Last year, the award went to a lawyer who had plunged 24 floors to his death after crashing through a window pane when demonstrating how safe the glass was. This year, the winner was an Indian who, with a drinking companion, climbed into the tiger's enclosure at Calcutta zoo and tried to put a garland of marigolds around its neck. What seems to have made his death particularly Darwin-worthy was the fact that the tiger was named Shiva, after the Hindu god of destruction.

The runner-up was a Seattle robber who attempted to hold up a firearms shop when a uniformed, armed policeman was in the shop, together with several armed cus-

The awards have been widened this year to include a section for nonfatal stupidities. The 1997 Stupid Human Travesties award went to two illegal Fijian immigrants to New Zealand who stole five protective helmets and 400 puncture repair kits from a bicycle shop without making any plans for their escape. They had apparently arrived at the shop by taxi, but forgotten to ask the driver to wait. "What is the modern world coming to when a gang of thieves arrive at the place they are going to rob in a taxi?" Justice Morris asked at the Auckland High Court. "I despair of the future for our country when a group of louts like you lack the intelligence to take even basic

precautions to avoid detection." The runners-up included a bankrobber who was last seen "hopping and jumping about" after a dye pack exploded in his pocket and burned a

hole through his flies, and a man

who was trying to siphon petrol out of a caravan but put his bose into the scwage tank by mistake. There were 301 nominations for the awards, full details of which mar

be found on the website at: http://www.officialdarwinawards.com In many cases, the heading of the nomination tells the whole story. "Leave the grenade at home if you go drinking" is sound enough advice, while "Suffocated in his own home with Scuba gear" clearly carries a

similarly salutary message. But perhaps the most tragic of all was the death of a young lady reported in "Oral sex underwater". It happened, appropriately enough, in Darwin, Australia.

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Oliver Sherwood, 42, National Hunt

I had one brother who was three years younger than me. He and I were brought up by my mother, and everything we did was horsey. We were very spoilt living with Mum in Warwickshire, as we had lots of ponies, and our rosettes were never-ending.

My brother wanted to be a professional show-jumper, so we used to put up little fences round the garden, and go round on foot. It wasn't so much show-jumping, more of a cross-country course. Mum had us build stone walls and this-and-that, and we'd time each other's rounds, each trying to be as quick as we could. Those were our little games in the

Mum was - and still is - very competitive, and we also had to practise doing the normal things you do on a horse at Pony Club - the bending and potato races. To get us to try and win, there were all sorts of carrots, such as the loser having to muck out the winner's

garden, pretending that we were on horseback.

Being three years older than my brother, obviously I had a slight advantage, so I'd be handicapped on time. But I used to cheat because I was bigger than him, and if he tried anything, I'd beat him up a bit. We weren't very close at that age, but we carried on playing the jumping game until we were

My children have all played it. My son is not so keen, but my eldest daughter, who's 13, used to play a lot, and my little daughter, who's 31/2, loves it.

Going on to other games, I still play consequences, although liar dice is the game everyone plays in Lambourne. That's quite fun, and my friend and neighbour Kim Bailey is very good at it.

Oliver Sherwood trains Him of Praise (owner, M St Quinton), which will be running in the Aintree Grand National today, ridden by C Swan. Coverage on BBC TV at 3.45pm.

Simon Sherwood, Oliver's younger brother, partnered Desert Orchid to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1989 (trainer, David Elsworthy).

CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON



The annual championships of the Johannes Zukertort Memorial Home for Disturbed Grandmasters in Vienna are always looked forward to by all admirers of true art in chess. For the residents, sated by a lifetime of successful competitive endeavour, while away their final years in pursuit not of more empty victories, but

only in search of beauty. This year was adjudged one of their most successful events ever, with every gameending in a perfect draw. As the satisfied combatants said, there were no winners other than the game itself. The diagram position is

an excellent example of the artistry shown in the games. When I saw the pieces on the board as shown, with Black to play, I felt certain that the perfect record of draws was about to end. Any move of the bishop on c8 delivers checkmate. I left the room to buy a cup of

pieces had been put away. "Is the game over?" I asked one of the arbiters.

tea, and when I returned the

"Yes," he replied. "Draw." He could see I was flabbergasted, so added: "By stalemate." Oh. I said. "You mean

instead managed to stalemate White." "No." he replied calmly.

Black missed the mate and

"it was White who stalemated Black." I reset the pieces in the diagram position from memory and confirmed that

we were indeed talking

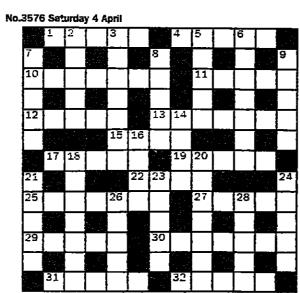
about the same game. "Yes." said the arbiter, "it was Black's move here, and White delivered stalemate 34 moves later." Then he went away and left me to work it out.

You might like to see if you can do so too.

What, given up already? Okay, here's the answer. For the first 25 moves, White plays Kb8 and Ka8 while Black plays 1.f3, 2.f2. 3.f1=B, 4.Bd3, 5.Bb1, 6.Ba2, 7.Qb1, 8.f5, 9.f4, 10.f3, 11.f2, 12.f1 = B. 13.Rf2, 14.Kf7. 15.Ke6, 16.Kd5, 17.Ke4, 18.Kc3, 19.Kb2, 20.Ka1. 21.Rb2, 22.Rff2, 23.Bf5. 24.Bc2, 25.d3, Play now continues: 26.Kb8 Be3 27.Kc7 e5 28.Kxd6 Bc1 29.Ke6 Rd2 30.Kf5 e4 31.Kg4 Be2+ 32.Kxh3 c3 33.Kg2 Bd1+ 34.Kf1 e2+ 35.Ke1 - White's 34th move from the diagram and Black is stalemated.

(Composed by Zdravk) Maslar in 1958.)

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13 Neat (7) Foolish person (5) 19 Encounters (5)

Mountain goat (4) 25 Fate (7) 27 Separate Separate (5) 29 Estimate (5) Talent (7)

11 Scope (5) 12 Skilful (5) Scandinavian capital (4)

31 Join forces (5) 32 Celtic language (5)

DOWN

Nimble (5) Member of upper house (7) Taken on (5)

Mosque tower (7) Fight (5) Mountainous region of Austria (5) 9 Genistone (5) 14 Old imperial power (4)

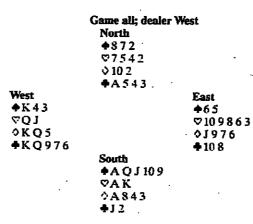
16 Rotate (4) 18 Cowboy film (7) 20 Inspect (7) Saving (5) 23 Local regulation (2-3) Remains (5)

26 Small picture (5)

28 Wrong (5) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

AC ROSS: 5 Turin, o Horbling Hur, nobbling) 9 Aster, 10 Response, 11 Devon, 14 Aug., 16 Exodus, 17 Gadily, 18 Pig. 20 Shek, 24 Enormous, 25 Acute 26 Armehur, 27 Start, DOWN: 1 Charm, 2 Abuse, 3 Effort, 4 Uniser, 6 Uniserior, 7 to 1601, 12 Explicit, 13 Educator, 14 Asp., 15 Egg., 19 Ignore, 21 Truce 22 Normal, 23 Usury

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



Both North and South were a little optimistic in the bidding on this deal and an accurate defence led to a defeat of their game. Close analysis, however, suggests that there was a route to success, but that it would have been difficuit to find at the table. West opened 1NT, and after two passes South doubled.

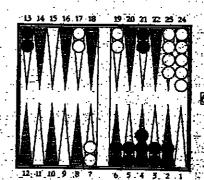
West and North were happy to pass, but East wisely retreated to 20. With an awkward decision (he held undisclosed card values). South jumped to 3 + and on the strength of his three trumps, a doubleton and an ace. North went on to game. Against Four Spades, West made the good lead of a low trump.

After winning in hand, declarer followed with the ace and another diamond. If West had falled to unblock, he would have had to win the second diamond and would then have been badly placed, unable to lead a second trump with safety, and with South obviously threatening to ruff two diamonds in dummy.

So, after careful thought, West played Q under the ace and let the next diamond run to East. Now a second trump lead held declarer to nine tricks. It was well defended, but can you see (double-dummy)

a route to success? Suppose declarer crosses to #A at trick two before leading a diamond from dummy. East must insert the nine (else South will play his eight) and West must unblock as before under the ace. Then a diamond back kills the defence, for if West plays low, South's ♦ 8 wins the fourth trick in the suit.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



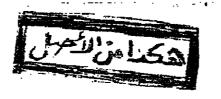
Chessplayers are used to the concept of zugzwang - where the player whose turn it is would prefer not to move at all as any move will weaken his position. In backgammon. zugzwang is not uncommon as a player will often have timing problems and would prefer to keep his position as it is.

The position above is an example of double zigzwang: whoever moves first will irreparably weaken his position. With Black on roll, his equity is approximately 0.38. With White on roll, Black's equity rises to 0.52. Black's ideal scenario would be that he could double in this position and then. ask White to roll. In a money game with Black on roll he is not quite strong enough to double.

The position occurred in the Double Fives weekly tournament. In a match to seven points, Black trailed by three points to five. This match score is interesting. The trailing player should double if he has a good chance of winning a gammon. The leader needs only 20 per cent (rather than the normal 25 per cent) winning chances to take, provided there. is not a huge gammon threat. After long thought, Julian Fetterlein, playing Black, doubled; and after even longer thought. The Doyen, playing White, dropped.

Both the double and the drop were correct. At 3-5 and with a reasonable gammon threat, this is an excellent pressure double. Although White will win 33 per cent of the time, this is offset by the number of gammons he loses when two or more of his men get closed out by Black. After all the arithmetic has been done. White's chances of winning the matchare 59 per cent whether he takes or drops, so either option is

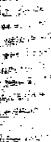
This is an excellent example of how tournament and money play can differ. For money, Black should not yet double but in a match, Black should double and White can drop.



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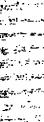




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11/INDOOR

Faux pas: reality (right), and imitation (below) painted at Relics in Witney, Oxfordshire Photographs: Brian Harris (right) John Lawrence



Find your marbles

Making it: Catherine Stebbings tries her hand at marbling and other faux finishes

Siena marble, vert de mer, tortoiseshell, malachite, lapis lazuli: these paint effects may sound well beyond the average home decorator. But they're not - provided you have some good training - as I discovered on a one-day course at Relics, a delightful this turned out to be a surprisingly easy exhome decoration and restoration emporium in the market town of Witney, in

The shop itself is a treat. Here you can buy pretty much everything you may need for home decorating, including the softest badger-hair brushes, oak corbels, and a fine

range of paints, varnishes, waxes and tints. Ten of us settled into a charming little room at the back of the shop, where we met Carol Spode. She is a rising media star who has made appearances on TV shows such: displaying her flambovant skills in specialist: shapes that remain, and soften the whole paint effects. By comparison, taking on a thing until you like the look of it.

bunch of amateurs was probably child's play. She seemed to fill the room with her enthusiasm, and we were soon painting small

jewellery boxes in tortoiseshell effect. For all that the results look complicated, ercise. You start by painting the top of the box gold, using shellac mixed with gold pigment powder, and paint the base in matt black emulsion. From then on you use artist's oil paints mixed with a little fident about dabbling with tortoiseshell scumble (thinning medium) and white spirit, first painting over the gold with a mix of burnt umber and burnt sienna and then painting random "s" shapes over the top in burnt umber. After putting yellow our tutor for the day, an interior designer, . ochre splodges in the curves of the "s" shapes, you outline the shapes roughly with a little black, and soften these gently with as Our House and Good Morning with Anne - a brush. Finally you make "v" shapes with and Nick, offering little gens of advice and burnt sienna at either end of the fuzzy

The first attempts to follow these instructions are unlikely to be perfect. This is where the course comes in. Once you have been shown the various materials, how they work together, how to apply them, how to soften the effect and which colour coordinations work, a certain confidence sets in. Carol allowed us to see each error as a step in the learning process, which left us all feeling pleased with our results, and con-

The participants were an eclectic mixture of amateurs and professional designers looking for extra skills. But the course suited us all. As Carol says, "Anyone could do this course; you don't even have to be artistic. It is a little more unusual than most courses but generally we are using familiar techniques in a more flamboyant way. l just make it accessible."

It was this slightly unorthodox approach that made the course so appealing

and enlightening. Allie Ridley, a local artist,

described Relies as her lifeline. "I have done lots of courses here." she said. "I really enjoy learning fun techniques such as using feathers to stroke on paint. scraping it away with the back of a pen or splatting paint with meths. All this can be translated into my artwork, for a different

Marbling was perhaps the one effect where real skill helped. The method itself is not complicated, but the placing of veins, the softening of colours and the depth of work are demanding. Malcolm Lax, a retired sign-writer, produced a spectacular illusion of Siena marble which showed all the detail, colour differentiations and unique qualities of the real thing. He admitted to having practised for a few weeks; his work looked like that of an expert.

For me the most spectacular effect was the vert de mer. Here green and blue were the surface. The result has a depth of softened into a black background and then remarkably like the real thing, and " ... I be and Bull. Old Village and Colournan.

a shock of white was sent through it by sawing a well-loaded feather across the surface. Equally impressive was the finely lined malachite which, thanks to the use of a small piece of corrugated cardboard drugged through the paint in circular motions, looked remarkably like the real thing.

We finished with the lapis lazuli effect, which seemed sufficiently straightforward to practise at home with the children. On to a light blue, water-based, eggshell base colour, you lay a runny mix of scumble and ultramarine. Then you randomly splodge dots of black scumble mixture on to it. The next step is frottage (the one technical term we used, basically meaning "splodge with

Having done that, you draw a river in the thick paint and sprinkle a dusting of gold pigment powder into it. Frottage again, and sprinkle a little more gold powder across

great for covering little boxes for presents. The day at Relies was not only helpful, but also fun and entertaining. And there were welcome extras; a good sandwich lunch was provided, and we were supplied with endless cups of tea by the saintly Laura, who also spent the day washing our

Relies, 35 Bridge Street, Witney, Oxon OX8 6DA (01993 704611), offers a wide range of courses including decorative furniture painting, canc-smithing, broken colour work and stencilling. Carol Spode is running another 'spectacular effects: marbling and faux finishes' course on Friday 15 May. The cost is £75 and booking is essential. All courses include a sandwich lunch. The shop provides an extensive mail-order service with almost everything you may need to achieve decorarive effects and the restoration of furniture; including paints from Annie Sloan, Farrow

Higher

Education

Conferences

Pots of good karma when India comes to town

Our preconceptions of goods from India are about to undergo a radical change, writes Gina Cowen, as an exhibition of exquisite crafts arrives in this country

"Hand-made in India" - that may sound all too familiar, the subtext being that the item is in fact mass produced, and is on special offer somewhere off Brick Lane. But be prepared to think again. An exhibition opening on Thursday at the Crafts Council Gallery in London is set to challenge assumptions of Indian craftsmanship. Here pictured); and, more humorously, in the reyou'll see a wide display of contemporary

crafts, including embroidered, woven and printed textiles, and objects thrown, carved and beaten in terracotta, wood, stone and metal - even artefacts reincarnated

from rubbish. "We tend to think of Indian crafts either as intricate wonders from; sav, the Mughal period reposing in the solemn galleries of the V&A, or as bright, mirrored trinkets on market stalls - and they currently have a reputation for poor quality," says Louise Taylor, head of exhibitions at the Crafts Council, and one of the curators of this particular show. This show opens our eyes to a vibrant culture of craft that is modern, sophisticated and relevant." None of the works is likely to have been seen in a shop or market in this country, and they are vasily different from the stuff that fills so many home decoration catalogues and

style-surre shelves - created in Croydon, beaten out in Bangalore. Hand-made in India will show work by Indians, significantly for an Indian market: temple lamps cast in brass; an urli (a rituai vessei in bell metal, from Kerala); a grass chair from Orissa (using design and technology from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur); double ikat weavings from Andhra Pradesh: ujrakh printing and ari embroidery from Kutch, Gujarat, iron- comes round in the end: birth, death, rework figures; bamboo mattresses, terracotta birth - Coca-Cola tin, rubbish dump, chancooking pots; sikki baskets; even stencils delier. Two years ago the Crafts Council (0116 255 4100). For further venues, call the for remple floor decoration, from Mathura staged a highly successful exhibition, Re- Crafts Council (0171-278 7700).

- Krishna's birthplace, in Uttar Pradesh. The quality of craftsmanship is superb particularly notable in Shaan Zaveri's granite plates inspired by traditional thalis (large tray plates) with fused granite of different colours; in Abshar Hussain's magnificent wooden bowl with a carved rim (

cycled creations of Vinod Kumar Sharma.

Locally, Sharma is perhaps best known for

making a man's suit from recycled news-

paper. For this exhibition he has created

multicoloured mats from sweet wrappings,

and lamps, from perforated tins, that are

reminiscent of highly carved traditional In-

certainly born from a mixture of stark nec-

essity and a karmic acceptance that all

The Indian flair for recyling is almost

cycled, which displayed such items as a chandelier featuring a bicycle wheel and hanging bottles by Sophie Chandler, and chest of drawers made out of used sardine

cans, by Michael Marriott. Marriott, who is well known among the style set (Elle Deco, Blueprint, 100% Design. Milan Furniture Fair) is one of the designers (along with Katherine Skellon) of Handmade in India. He follows the dictum

that "good design is all about cun-

ning use of resources, what-

ever they are". In designing the exhibition, the cunning would appear to have been in making a space that reveals the exhibits not only as works of art but also as objects of everyday use. The design had to be highly flexible, since this is a touring show, with emphasis on the fact that these are items made for sale, and to be used. "Rather than offering a set route round a gallery, this will be something you can wander

through on a number of differ-

ent routes," says Marriott. Be prepared for a mix of Southall market and South Kensington museum. There are more than 300 works on display, and the price range is wide - from £10 to £1,000. In an inverted form of hire purchase. you can pay now and pick up your item at the end of the exhibition, which will tour

'Hand-made in India' opens on 9 April and runs to 28 June at the Crafts Council Gullery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 (0171-278 7700); from 11 July to 8 August at the Angel Row Gallery in Nottingham (0115 947 6334); and from 5 September to 31 October in Leicester at the City Gallery (0116 254 0595) and Leicester Museum

the country over the next 18 months.



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The bloom and bust syndrome

When grouping plants together, writes Anna Pavord, it's easy to go for the grand slam. but take care: a sparkling spring could give way to a sere and sullen summer garden

serenely out at you: veiled hats for funerdifferent from hats for shopping in her local town. She has hats for going to church in and hats for coffee mornings (including a wicked navy blue number she bought especially to go to a fundraiser for the lifeboats). Egged on by our children, she can always find a reason for another outing, another hat.

Occasionally, hatted out, she comes finished. with me to the garden centre, where she wanders through the plants with the same exploratory caution that I feel in her natural territory. I'd gone in there for gravel, to top-dress the tulips in their At this time of the year, you can team it bench, and I had to have it.

"You've got one of those," said my mother-in-law accusingly at the checkout desk. "More than one. I saw them prospects for the future. this morning." I explained the difference between this particular pulmonaria and my other seven (though I didn't admit to that many), but knew that I'd never be again about her hat habit. We are

plain dark green, unspotted. Having brought it home, we had to find it the right companions. My mother-in-law liked that bit. Like her hats, plants are not bought just for their own sake, but because they will complement something we already have - or intend

spread of magenta-coloured 'Wanda' primroses and a bergenia, whose big. spoon-shaped leaves are a rich shade of carry it through the summer, but there is space to put in some of my favourite tobacco plants, the tall, white-flowered

This is the decision you have to make when you are grouping plants together in the garden. Are you going for the happening? With a little forethought, you can have the best of both worlds, for

My mother-in-law is a hataholic. She has there are some plants, notably the very early dwarf magenta tulip. T more hats than anyone I know. When you hellebores and euphorbias, that pulchella, is growing with patches of blue open her cupboards, rows of the things gaze contribute to the garden all the year als; wide-brimmed hats for weddings; hats these "bankers" in your plant groups, snaky, ground-hugging twirls of greyfor shopping in her village, which are subtly you will be more than half-way to

> The best bankers have good foliage, because in the end it is leaves, not flowers, that make your garden feel rich, abundant and well-furnished. So in any group, there ought to be one plant (like the bergenia) which will continue to have point when its flowers have

The perennial wallflower 'Bowles Mauve' is a generous plant. flowering over a long period. That is a useful trait, but as a plant it does not have character. spring-like, but will not be a sustaining the group, it immediately has better

The same thinking might apply to a group of the yellow narcissus 'Quail', interplanted with deep blue hyacinths. They both look - and smell able to use those same words to her magnificent. But bulbs put themselves coarse and unprepossessing. It is neatly away when they have finished their growth cycle. Without some The pulmonaria has particularly rich backdrop, such as the handsome dark blue flowers, though the leaves are evergreen Helleborus foetidus, there would soon be an empty gap where the narcissus and hyacinths are performing so magically at the moment.

I think spring should be grand slam time, and bulbs achieve those kinds of effects better than any other kind of plant. But while you are enjoying these in-your-face displays, you need always to 'Blue Ensign' went in next to a be thinking "What happens after-

This spring, Tidipa batalinii 'Bronze Charm' interplanted with deep blue de claret. The patch will not have much to Caen anemones has been better than ever before. But though I feel that nothing will give me more pleasure on that patch than these two do, it planting. 'Fragrant Cloud' (Thompson & Morgan, nevertheless has to have something happening on it for the rest of the year, when both anemone and tulip have dived underground.

The same problem will occur where blow.

Anemone blanda. That show will finish round. If you include one or two of soon, but they have as company the leaved Euphorbia myrsinites. This is flowering at the moment, with vivid, lime-green heads (good with magenta), so the patch is technically grand slam rather than successional in its planting. But the euphorbia is a good all-round plant, evergreen (or rather, evergrey), intriguing and sculptural. Even on its own, it would make the spot worth visiting. If I can remember to pop in a few summer-flowering Spanish daisies (Erigeron karvinskianus 'Profusion'), it will be even better.

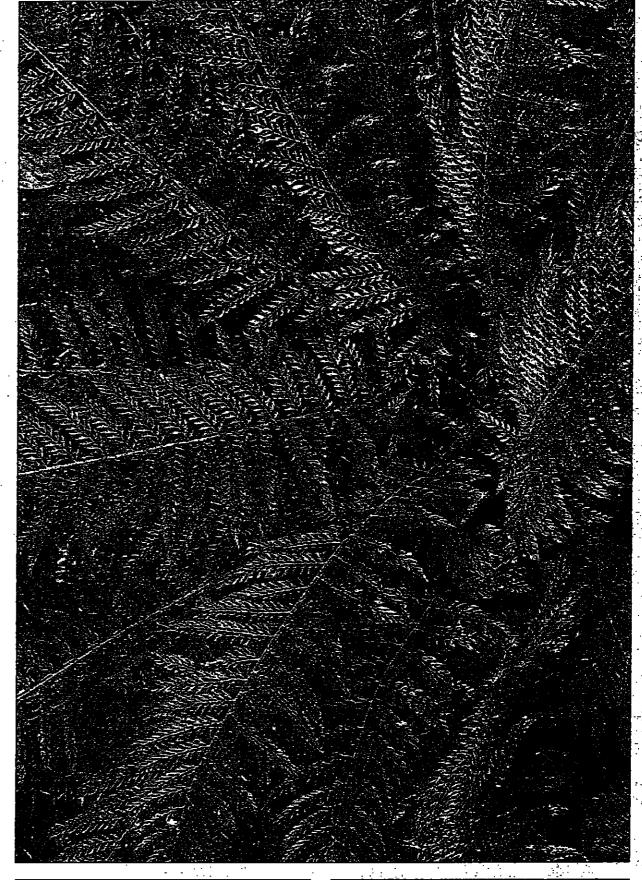
Lilies follow on well from early bulbs, having the same strengths and pots. But a fabulous pulmonaria 'Blue with sweet-smelling, pale cream weaknesses (phenomenal flowers, Ensign' was signalling wildly from a narcissus. That will look fresh and useless foliage) and I've just taken delivery of some 'Citronella' lilies to diet. If you add Geranium palmatum to plant amongst blue and white hyacinths on the bank.

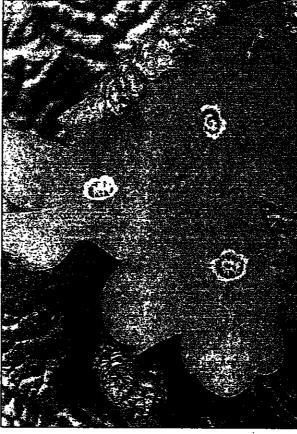
The hyacinths are there to complement the variegated, blueflowered brunnera, a clean, simple combination of spring-flowering plants.

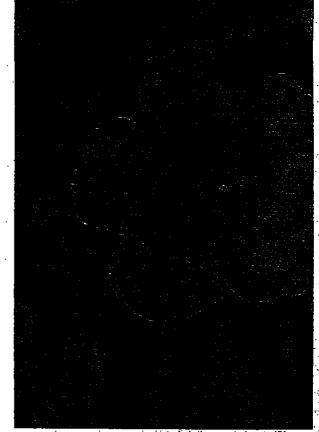
But later on, the brunnera grows surrounded by the tall blue geranium 'Mrs Kendali Clark' and the similar (though shorter) 'Johnson's Blue'. Their flowers are good, but the leaves of the three plants are similarly matt in texture. The group needs to be kicked into orbit. I hope 'Citronella', with its elegant, recurved flowers, will be the

Ferns. like spurges, are reliable bankers, provided you can give them the cool conditions they like. For the past couple of months, snowflakes have been flowering on our bank, tall graceful clumps of green with dangling white snowdrop heads on the ends of the stems. They are interplanted with more brunnera, the plain, green-leaved kind, so in essence, this is a spring

But with them is a 'Bevis' fern, one of the most beautiful of the polystichums, with long, arching fronds, and it is this, together with the grevish hosta 'Krossa Pinks, I think, will be the answer. Regal that will give that part of the bank grand slam, with everything coming out They like the same hot, well-drained a new life later in the season. I don't together? Or are you planting for conditions as the tulips and they will not want this time of year ever to finish, but continuity, so that whenever you look at get too rampant. I'll probably go for in the very small part of my mind that is particular spot, something is some sheets of the red Diantius rational. I know it will. Making sure







Good companions: clockwise from top, 'Polystichum setiferum', 'Pulmonaria Blue Ensign', 'Primula Wanda's Red' Photographs: Howard Rice (above and top), Sunniva Harte/GPL

CUTTINGS

Sarah Raven, queen of the cutting garden, is offering more courses this year on growing and arranging cut flowers. On Monday 3 August, she will tell you all you need to know about preparing, planting and maintaining a modest cutting garden no more than 10ft by 15ft (cost £125). More ambitious two- and three-day courses are planned for 13-15 July and 20-21 July. For the first time. Ms Raven is also selling seeds for those who want to plant flowers for cutting: sunflowers,

cornflowers, marigolds, dill (for its foliage), snapdragons, poppies and many others. All seeds cost £1.50 a packet. For a copy of the list (and details of courses) send a stamped. addressed envelope (11cm x 22cm) to Sarah Raven's Cutting Garden. Perch Hill Farm, Brightling, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5HP.

'Gardens Illustrated' celebrates its fifth birthday with the April issue (£3.50) just published. It's got a

blueish duck eggs - photographed in the garden of the writer Francine Raymond, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. The magazine is celebrating its anniversary by increasing publication from six issues a year to 10. Read about Bob Brown's nursery, Cotswold Flowers, or follow Roy Lancaster's trail through the prolific family of ceanothus. To take out a subscription (£35 for 10 issues), call 01454 202515 or fax: 01454 620 080.

suitably Easterish cover - a clutch of

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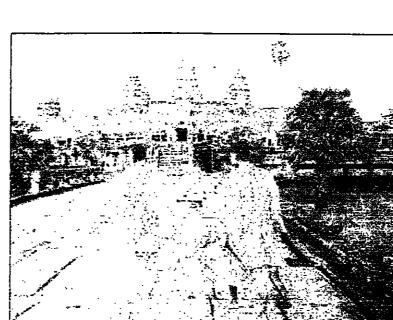
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

TRAVEL

ANGKOR WAT

Shaun MacLoughlin in Cambodia visits the greatest religious construct on Earth

plus: A short stay in Barcelona



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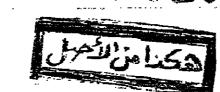
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THE INDÉPENDENT

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WEEKEND WORK

Water plants growing in pots. This is a job that, though obvious in summer. we often do not think of during spring. In some areas there has been no rain to speak of for a couple of weeks, but plenty of wind, which dries out plants even faster than sun.

Plant early potatoes in mild areas. The ground, at least, is far more workable than it was in its sodden state during February. If necessary, protect young lop growth when it emerges, with a floating ficece of spun polypropylene. This is useful stuff. You can cover carrots with it to keep off carrot fly, or spread it over young courgette plants like a duvet to keep them warm at night. The stuff I use is called Agralan. It has been wrapping up my agaves on cold nights through the winter and seems to have brought them through safely. They are under cover, but unheated cover.

Plant a row of early peas. You need a lot to get a decent meal from them, but the taste reminds you that the frozen pea is no more than an approximation of the real thing. I have sown 'Douce Provence' (Marshalls, £1.04), which is sweeter than 'Feltham First'. It grows to only 2ft, so needs minimum staking. Cover the drills with netting . against birds. Last year I found the rooks were adept at tweaking out peas just after they had germinated.

Tie in wall shrubs such as ceanothus and climbing ... roses, and wall-trained fruit trees such as apricot and

Nip off the dead beads of

daffodils before they waste Cut down the top growths of any perennials, such as campanula and Michaelmas daisy, that got forgotten in the autumn. Watch where you out your feet. In reaching for my own forgotten campanulas I trod straight on to the newly emerging, salmonpink shoots of Paeonia mlokosewitschii. Catastrophe.

Anna Pavord

A scent of London's green past

The Herb Garden at Shoreditch is a reminder of the East End's roots, says Patricia Cleveland-Peck

The East End of London conjures up images of urban decay and traffic pollution rather than orchards and gardens, yet in the past Hackney, Hoxton and Shoreditch were important horticultural areas. In the late 16th century there was a botanical garden in Homerton that included plants collected by Mathias de Lobel of Lobelia fame; Pepys mentions a visit to an East End garden in 1666 in which oranges were growing: at Hackney House in 1700 a deer park was created. The good soil and plentiful water supply made the area a mecca for market gardens. In 1590 Gerard wrote in his Herball: "The small Turnep which groweth by Hackney ... are the best that ever I tasted".

Plant nurseries abounded. There was even one specialising in vines. The most influential was the nursery that Conrad Loddiges established in Marc Street in 1774. Here he developed the largest hothouse in the world; it contained a tropical rainforest of exotic plants, some of which he supplied to Kew and Chatsworth.

The area was also rich in pleasure gardens. Pepys records a trip out of London (which stank in summer) with his wife "to take the ayre to Hackney, there light and play at shuffleboard, eat cream and good cherries; and so with good refreshment home".

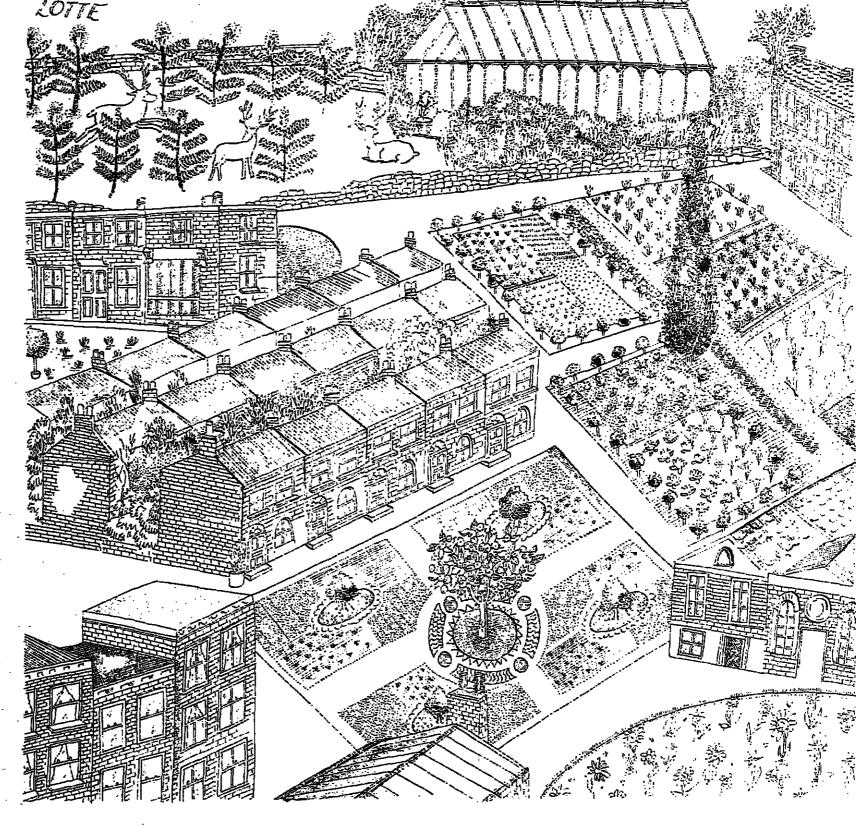
The Eagle pleasure gardens in City Road (celebrated in the song "Pop goes the weasel") survived into the 19th century, but the spread of the metropolis and the consequent increase in land prices meant that more and more green spaces fell to speculative builders. With development came the problems of pollution. The modern image of the East End emerged.

Yet the ghosts of the old gardeners lingered about the place too insistently for the love of green things to be eradicated. East End backyards and window boxes continued to flower. Even today the private gardens of Albion Square (a winner in last year's London Squares Competition) are open under the National Gardens Scheme in June.

At the same time, vestiges of the green past have survived in the parks. Victoria Park, Springfield Park and Clissold Park, if no longer in their heyday, provide acres of open space for the community, while small reckels such as Allen's Garden in Bethune Read and St Thomas's churchyard are halfterrotten, secret gardens in which people can escape for a while from urban concerns.

· foday, the place in which the green and tranquil spirit of the old East End is most strongly captured must be the Herb Garden at the Geffrye Museum. Situated in a walled enclosure beside the old almshouses that make up this friendly museum, this garden is not, in fact, old. It was created in 1991 on a derelict site in the hope that it would serve as a sort of "spiritual heir to the legacy of horticultural interest and botanical delights once common in Shoreditch ..."

Within the brick walls, four square beds containing aromatic herbs such as lavender, southernwood, thyme, bergamot, mints and rosemary surround a central well-head



climbers and roses stand against the walls, while between them are beds planted with different types of herbs: dve plants, culinary herbs, herbs for bees, herbs for medicinal purposes, cosmetic herbs - even household herbs such as fleabane, which was once used to kill fleas, and pennyroyal, whose strong scent deterred ants. A further area is given over to cosmetic herbs, and there is a bed devoted to salad herbs, reminding us that in Tudor times a "sallet" was not the floppy lettuce leaf, tired tomato and chunk of

designed by the local ceramicist Kate Mal- cucumber with which we are often fobbed 1600 to 1950, and the garden shows what an such a beautiful, safe and thoughtful place." ent plants.

The educational value of this garden is flavourings, medicine and cosmetics. inestimable in an area where few people have the opportunity to experience the natural world at first hand. "Local people think of it as theirs." says Christine Lalumia, who initiated the project. "Some even bring us

In the gentlest way it teaches a great deal, underlining man's continuing reliance on plant power. The museum itself is laid out as a series of domestic interiors dating from continues to offer visitors a welcome. "It is

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one. Benches overhung with sweet-smelling off: it could feature as many as 50 differ- important role herbs played in the past, pro- says Christine Lalumia. "It's much used and viding the major source materials for

> It becomes apparent, however, that the chemical and pharmaceutical advances of this century have by no means banished herbs. Indeed a backlash against synthetic drugs and preservatives has revived interest in green

medicine, aromatherapy and all things herbal. Most of the East End gardens have long been buried under pavements, but their spiritual heir, the Herb Garden at the Geffrye.

much loved."

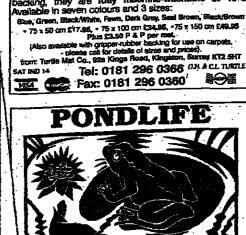
Indeed, to sit in this peaceful garden listening to the birds and bees, surrounded by the soft colours of the plants and breathing in their sweet and aromatic scents, is to feel at one with London's green past and full of hope for its tuture.

The Herb Garden at the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road E2 (0171-739 9893), is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm: Sunday 2pm-5pm. Admission is free.

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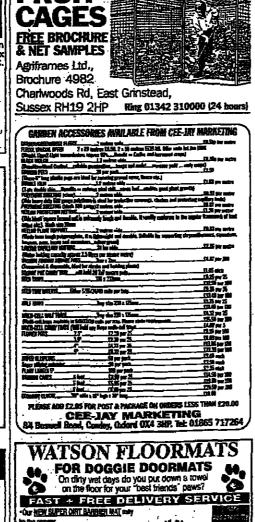
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The deer that was mistaken for a lion

Of the six deer species resident in Britain, five are cordially hated by foresters, farmers and gardeners, Red, fallow, sika, roe and muntiac are all, at various times, a menace to trees, crops or plants; the only kind to escape general opprobrium is the little Chinese water deer, which is scarce enough not to be a nuisance.

Like muntjae, which also come from the Far East, water deer were imported into England during the 19th century. There were a few at London Zoo during the 1870s, but their main early stronghold was Woburn Park, where the 11th Duke of Bedford established a herd in 1896. Since then, through escapes and deliberate introductions, they have spread north-eastwards into low-lying parts of East Anglia; but unlike muntiae, which were also brought in by the Duke, and have now colonised much of England, water deer have never got going on a large scale.

So far they have remained largely mysterious creatures; but now two dedicated researchers have brought out an excellent booklet which describes their biology, behaviour and distribution. One of the authors. Dr Arnold Cooke, is by training a herpetologist (reptile and amphibian expert) and a specialist on pollution. spent more than 20 years studying deer, and is an expert on the way in which excessive numbers can damage the environment, His co-author Lynne Farrell, also

Could the tiny, fecund Chinese water deer, still rare in Britain, ever become a pest? By Duff Hart-Davis



ural Heritage. Their main study area has been the Woodwalton Fen national nature reserve in Cambridgeshire, which inworking for English Nature, but he has cludes large, wet areas dominated by reeds and sallow carr.

the shoulder, and in poor light can easily be mistaken for muntjac, which is fact that neither males nor females have a biologist, was a colleague of his at Eng- about the same size. They are unique in antlers. Yet bucks do carry strange

lish Nature, and is now with Scottish Nat-several respects, not least in that females give birth to as many as seven fawns in a litter (other deer produce one at a time, or at most twins).

Hydropotes inermis is thought to be the most primitive form of deer in exist-Water deer stand only about 20in at ence. The second half of its Latin name, meaning "unarmed", points to the

weapons in the form of sharp, curved downwards from their upper jaws. These canine teeth are loose in their backwards, out of the way, while he is eating, but swing them forward into an offensive posture if he is shaping for a fight. (Battles between males are common, and many animals carry ripped ears or other scars.)

The tusks give bucks quite a formidable appearance, and the first water deer recorded in the Monks Wood area of Cambridgeshire was described to the police as a lion. As the booklet records, the report "provoked considerable activity" until, later the same day, the animal was hit by a car and killed.

Another peculiarity of the bucks is the noise they make when chasing off rivals during the annual rut. Nobody is sure how they make the sound - variously described as "clicking", "whickering" or "chittering" - but it seems to emanate from the molars.

One minor mystery is why, with their phenomenal powers of reproduction, water deer have not increased and spread more quickly in this country. The authors suggest various reasons: many fawns die of hypothermia in infancy, and others are taken by foxes; adult animals are killed on roads, and some are shot. Yet muntjac, faced with similar hazards, they have become a serious threat to

tusks about 3in long, which sweep three miles from Woodwalton Fen, over-grazing by munijac has brought about an ecological catastrophe: many sockets, so that the owner can turn them of the ground flora - dog's mercury. Orchids, primroses, bluebells - have been wiped out, and English Nature's attempts to restore areas of ancient coppice have been ruined by the deer persistently browsing off shoots from the hazel and ash stools, which cannot stand such treatment and eventually die.

Water deer are clearly here to stay. but not, everyone hopes, in excessive numbers. The booklet draws interesting comparisons with the status of the deer in China. There, a century ago, they were so widespread that they were regarded as an agricultural pest. Today poaching and loss of habitat have reduced numbers drastically, and the deer have been placed in Class Two of protected animals. Unless better conservation measures are introduced, the authors suggest, "the time may come when more of the Chinese subspecies live in England than in China", and English stock may have to be reintroduced to its native range.

'Chinese Water Deer' is the fourth in a series of booklets on deer published. jointly by the Mammal Society and the British Deer Society. Copies, price £3 each inc pap, are available from The Mamhave proliferated to such an extent that mal Society, 15 Cloisters Business Centre. 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG (0171-498 4358).

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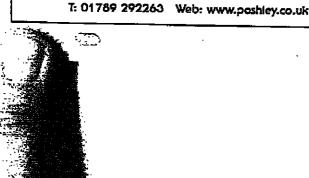
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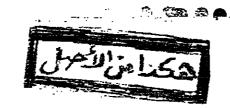
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So just how good is Tiger Woods?

Golf was shaken by his Masters triumph a year ago, but less stirred by his displays in the following majors. As the Tiger prepares to defend his title in Augusta next week, Andy Farrell assesses his unusual talent

IT MAY not be quite in the to his length off the tee, was that remember-where-you-were cat- he never needed more than a egory of earth-shattering mo-seven-iron into a par four. ments but, for the record, it was at 5.30 on the afternoon of Friday April 13 1997 that Tiger Woods took the lead in the US did so with an eagle at the parfive 13th hole and never relinquished his lead. Nor ever will, according to some.

ien, where

& Plus This and

le Gendemen

"I think we are all in trou-Montgomerie, recalling Woods' record 12-stroke victory at Augusta National last year. If Tiger plays to 60 per cent of his the time. Augusta needed to be ability, he's going to win again: If he putts well, he'll win."

nis first major championship as a professional, caused great swathes of the Augusta record book to be rewritten: he set 20 new records, including the lowest-ever score of 18 under par, 270, and becoming the youngest winner, and tied six others.

His victory was referred to variously as "the greatest performance ever seen in a golf major", "a win for the ages" and "the tournament of the century".

Yet for someone proclaimed obscure distinction of making 1976 and Arnold Palmer at the his only top-10

finish at Augus-'Some of the ta a victory. tion remains: magazines have did Woods play become a little golf from another solar sys- intrusive... | can't his tem last year, or just take advan- do anything in tage of a coursethat is perfectly public... And set up for a play-er of his prodi- think that's gious power off wrong

he latter but, as usual, elem of both apply. Woods must be given credeaking for a particular week. something only Jack Nicklaus, and to a lesser extent in recent gmes Nick Faldo, achieved condistently. It is a concept alien to the majority of tour players, who just hope for two or three hot veeks a year but have no idea

then they might arrive; and

ertainly not when the expec-

ations are as high as they were

the tee? The

scary theory is

ound a potentially disastrous lart, taking 40, four over, to the turn on the first day, to come home in six-under 30. He with Tigermania. played the last 63 holes in 22 under. What he managed to avoid during all four rounds was a hree-putt. On Augusta's speedy and undulating greens the flat parts measure 13 on controversies when he declined the stimpmetre, the highest rating of the year - such a feat the key to victory. The last four winners have had one

three-putt between them. But the key to putting well at Augusta is usually precise mid-iron play of the quality produced by Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Jose Maria Olazabal. Woods' advantage, thanks

"You can't say it was just my putting or my driving, you have to explain it as a whole package," Woods said. "I made a lot Masters for the first time. He of putts and my speed control was perfect, but the majority of my putts were uphill because I was able to control my mons into the greens. Why was I able to do that? Because I had short ble at the Masters," said Colin irons in. And that was because I drove the ball great."

"They need to put in Tiger tees," Jesper Parnevik said at toughened up, was the cry. But the guardians of the Masters Woods, then aged 21 and in have resisted growing any rough or putting in extra bunkers at

After all, the scoring record was only broken by one shot and had stood since Nicklaus set it in 1965. Nicklaus's record, equalled by Ray Floyd in 1976, was the longest-standing scoring mark in the four majors. "You want to make it harder?" Parnevik says now. "I thought it was pretty tough."

Nor can Woods' triumph be described as the most dominant as the greatest golfer ever, of all time. In slightly differing Woods currently shares with measures of a winner's perfor-George Archer, Sandy Lyle mance versus the rest of the and Ian Woosnam the slightly field, Floyd at the Masters in Open Cham-

> pionship in 1962 come out Hogan's mastery in each of crown victories at the Masters, US_Open and the Open in

er recaptured his Augusta other majors, finishing 19th a the US Open, 24th at the Open and 29th at the USPGA. One too, for things, Firstly, for win in five matches was also a poor return in the Ryder Cup at Valderrama. "Very simply, I hit the ball better at the Masters," Woods said. "You have to hit the ball well and keep the ball in play and I wasn't able to

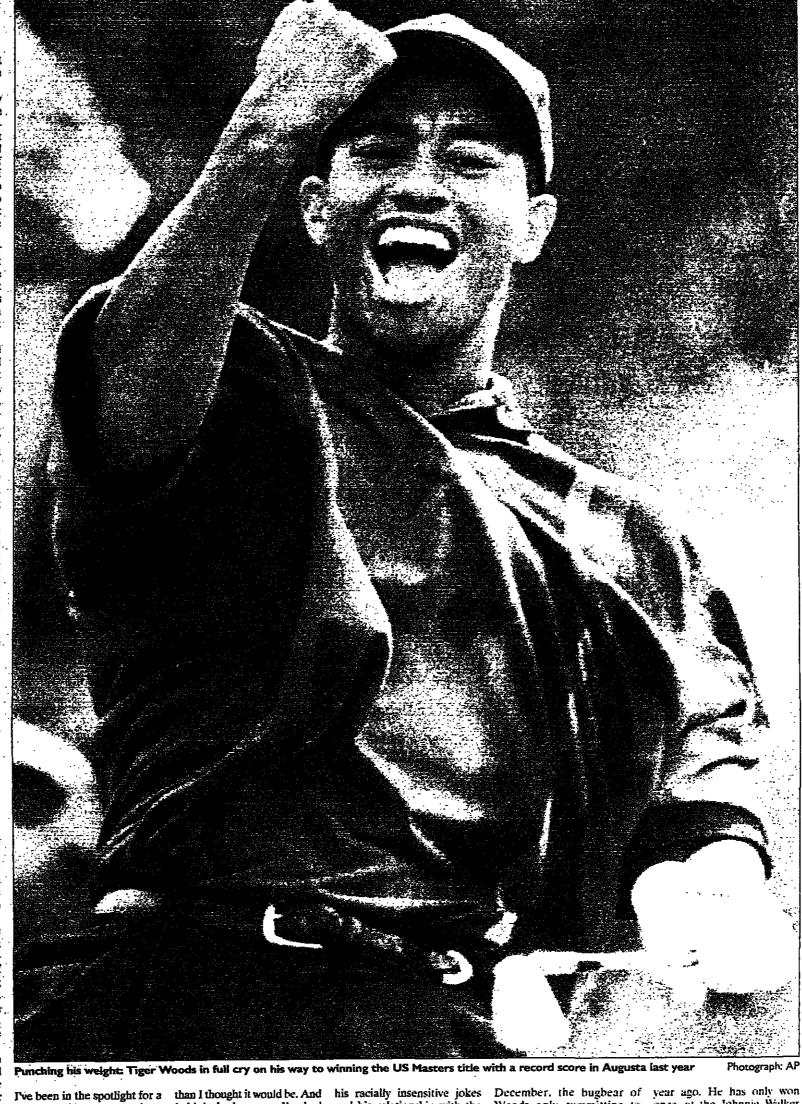
Woods nev-

His last win of 1997 came in July, but after seven victories in his first 10 months as a professional - the first couple of which were entailed gaining Secondly, Woods turned his US Tour card in the first place - Woods can be forgiven for feeling slightly burned out. He was also learning to cope

do that at the other majors."

Endorsements worth \$100m (£60m), including Nike and American Express, made Woods the most visible golfer ever. The Masters win brought an invitation to join President Clinton at a Jackie Robinson memorial event and followed Fuzzy Zoeller's "fried chicken and collard greens' remarks. For his champion's dinner, Woods has included cheeseburgers, chickenburgers, fries and strawberry and vanilla

"People assume that since



while that I know how to handle all this but I'm still learning." Woods admitted, "The hardest part has been that the public doesn't want to hear now good I hit a five-iron.

"They want to know what I do off the course. The tabloids, some of the magazines, they've become a little intrusive. I can't do anything in public

saying where I was and the stations repeat it like it's fact. "I would like the public to

know me as me, but not to know what I do in my personal life. It's hard to have that balance, but that's what I want."

I think that's wrong. I've had and his relationship with the people call into radio stations American media has become strained. Woods added: "If somebody gets to know me, the way I see it they can write what know me, they shouldn't be tak-

ing shots."

Of course, no one gets the Impossible, more like it. chance to get to know Tiger. Woods has stopped giving one- At a day with a dozen Ameriwithout them looking for an anon-one interviews after GQ can golf writers to try and woods has however, region magazine repeated some of mend some bridges last turned in 1998 better than a flighting the ball better. It's

Woods only committing to tournaments on the Friday before came up. "You know, if you committed two weeks before, you'd get a better deal they want. But until they get to with the airlines." one reporter said to lighten the mood. That's not a problem," Woods replied, "I know. It's a joke, Tiger," the re-

porter said.

once, at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand. But he has been in contention every time he has played, something he was not a year ago, apart from the Players' Championship where he had an equally low-key week 12 months

"Overall, it's a better package this year." Woods said. -1 am controlling my distances and

How the young Master ranks

 Tiger Woods won three of his first 10 tournaments as a professional and seven in his first 10 months.

He was Rookie of the Year in America in 1996 despite turning pro only at the end of August.

He reached \$1m (£600,000) in earnings on the US Tour quicker than anyone else (nine tournaments) and at a younger age (21 years and 14 days).

He won four times on the US Tour last year, becoming the first player to earn over \$2m in a single season. He became the youngest player to top the world rankings in

This year he has finished second, third, second, ninth, 13th and 35th on the US Tour and won the Johnnie Walker Classic. After a year and a half, he is 70th on the US Tour's career money list with \$3,447,413, one place below Lee Trevino.

...and how he banks

He is ranked sixth on the Forbes magazine list of biggest earners in sport in 1997 with \$26.1m (£15.6m) for the year. The next golfer on the list was Greg Norman in 11th place, one spot ahead of Arnold Palmer 46 years Tiger's senior. He was second to table-topper Michael Jordan in endorsements

He turned professional August 1996 with con tracts worth \$40m (£24m) from Nike and \$23m (£13.7m) from Titleist. Also handed \$7m (£4.2m) worth of stock in the All Star Cafe chain, a subsidiary of Planet Hollywood.

After the Masters he added deals with American Express and Rolex, and was recently signed up by breakfast cereal Wheaties. n ali, Woods' contracts sum to over \$100m (£60m). Told Hughes Horton, his manager at the International Management Group: "We're a great team because we are both the best in the world at what we do."

much more consistent." Only two men. Nicklaus in 66 and Faldo in '40, have successfully defended at Augusta, but it is something that Woods is not asked whether he expects to win this year, but whether he thinks he will break the scoring record again. "I really don't know. I'm just going to give it my all." The last line is the emphatic one: "I just want to get

Dangerous smiling. I'm afraid you'll have to go off for that, son



ROWBOTTOM

ON A RED CARD FROM THE REFEREE IN THE SKY

1 HAVE witnessed some memorable contests - but there is a special place in my heart for one which took place far from any recognised sporting arena. It happened last July at Mu-

nich Airport, the day after I had reported on Britain's victory in the European Cup for athletics. The first inkling of anything out of the ordinary, as far as I and my fellow passengers

bound for Stansted were concerned, came as we waited in the bus which was to take us to our plane. Everybody in the passenger

lounge had come through, but the bus remained stationary. The reason soon became apparent, as a number of unusual individuals strolled out to complete the party.

Their dress code was informal – combat trousers, leather jackets, wraparound shades.

cropped black to day-glo green. The last person to make his

jaunty way on made his mates look like Young Conservatives. He was small, with hair dyed green-yellow at the sides, and a brown and yellow plait down the centre. There was an intensity about him which struck a faint but not immediately recognis-

able chord in my memory. Was that nose jewellery? Yes. And tongue jewellery? Of course, the mad bloke from The Prodigy, looked like a devil with horns on the Top of the Pops video... Firestarter... Whatsisname...?

The name was provided by a stage whisper from a goggleeved teenager standing nearby. That's Keith Flint," he said to his friend. "That's The Prodigy."

The reference seemed lost on the businessman who stared

fiercely at the techno superstars taken with his final image, and up to the cockpit. Air UK to take that, I'm not going to gemeine. We were indeed late.

I found myself seated one place in front of Mr Flint, with two of the other group members across the aisle. As we awaited take-off, a man whom I subsequently discovered to be from Rolling Stone magazine began interviewing one of them, who interspersed brief replies with lengthy stares out of the window.

From behind, I heard the quiet but unmistakable voice of Keith Prodge - as he is invariably known in the magazines my cight-year-old daughter has begun to read.

"Did you see that guard on the way through? Yeah? He gave me... a dangerous smile..." His comment did not seem to be addressed to anyone in

particular. But he was clearly

over his copy of Frankfurter All- began to sing it to himself with a series of experimental em-And we were about to get later. phases. He gave me a... DANgerous smile... He gave me a dangerous SMIIe..."

> One or two passengers turned their heads. One or two stared fixedly ahead of them, the same thought running through their heads. "Take off... take off... take off..."

But the plane had not shifted and now the steward - a Scotsman no bigger than Keith Prodge himself - was making his way primly down the aisle towards the dyed and pierced one.

"Are you going to be all right, sir?" he enquired. "What?" "I just wondered if you were going to be all right on the plane, sir. Because you seem a little... hyper." The reply was unintelligible, but it had the effect of sending the steward back tells me to f- off. I don't have

steward 0 Keith Prodge 1.

The interview across the way continued. The greenhaired band member yawned and opened a novel. And that little, whimsical voice continued. "He gave me a dangerous smile... he gave me... a DAN-GEROUS SMI-YUL."

Still the plane stood. Then, in the distance, there came the sound of sirens. Two policeman, both armed with sub-machine guns, came aboard. One stared fixedly down the aisle, then slid his face out of view.

They were as low-key about the whole thing as people bearing machine-guns can be. But the steward was outraged. "He insulted me." exclaimed the frenzied, blazered person, pointing at the dyed, pierced person. "He told me to f- off. No one

take that. I want him off. OFF!" If Air UK stewards had been issued with red cards, he would have brandished one at that moment. Instead, he pointed one trembling finger at the door.

The other band members took Keith's part. "Leave it out!" "I don't believe this!" "This is a joke, right?"

I ventured the opinion that our man with the nose jewellery had done nothing outrageous. and that the plane would and should have taken off quarter of an hour earlier had the steward not taken it upon him-

The trembling finger turned on me. "You didn't have to put up with what I had to put up left. It was just as well - one of the one who was told to f-off!"

what I felt was an unhealthy interest in our discussion, and I decided, quite swiftly, to shut up. There was no doubt about what the final score was going to be in this particular tourney. Despite the band manager's

pleas, and despite the startingly mild protests of the one the tabloids call "Wild Man" -"This isn't fair. This is really unfair" - the diminutive singer was marched off the plane under armed guard. Air UK steward 2, Keith Prodge gone. The British Airport Au-

thorities went one better when we finally reached Stansted, Not self to create a confrontation. two, but three armed police detained the rest of the band on board until everyone else had with!" he shouted. "You weren't them had taken off his shoes on the flight over, and another had The machine-gunned, uni- been drinking tomato juice formed ones began to take laced with Worcester Sauce.

Suny ready to step from the shadows

Richard Edmondson expects last year's Grand National runner-up to take over the leading role

THEY used to duck witches and pile brushwood at the feet of martyrs for the sort of heresy that has been doing the rounds before Grand National 1998.

Several folk, some of them quite learned in the sport, have actually had the temerity to say this year's marathon over spruce walls is not much of a race. Sacrilege indeed.

There are always those who think the race was ruined by the trimming of the fences. These turf versions of the guillotine hags seemed to be happy only when Aintree was smoking at the end of battle with piles of dead horses for decoration. Yes, the obstacles have been modified, but then so has legislation on bear-baiting and nobody is complaining about that.

For the moaners who believe there is no longer an Aintree factor the betting market makes unhealthy reading. Rough Quest, Suny Bay and Samlee, all of whom have completed voyages around this course, are at the forefront of the betting.

More pertinent is the suggestion that the old race might be a little light on class this year. In recent times, illumination has been provided by an animal coming on from a storming effort in the Cheltenham Gold Cup to run here. That option is not available today. In fact, it is the prolonged contemplation of this year's outstanding Cheltenham Festival that has delayed the embarkation of the Liverpool publicity bandwagon.

In addition, there is nothing even vaguely fancied in the betting which won its last race. This absence of outstanding recent form means that the old warhorse Rough Quest is likely to start favourite, even though the only race he has won since victory here two years ago was over hurdles at Folkestone. All this does not mean that jockeys or spectators are in store for a dull afternoon. The mini-cameras that will be attached, Grand Prix-style, to riders' helmets will replay that evidence

ioday s may not re a contes of the highest calibre, but then the Grand National is not meant to be. It's a handican for a start, and the whole endeavour is about survival. It doesn't matter how quickly you get round the daunting obstacles as long as you do it. After all, there is no-one with a stopwatch at the foot of Everest to send you on

Rough Quest undoubtedly transported better form coming into this race two years ago, when he won after finishing second in the Gold Cup. At Cheltenham last month he fell. He is up in the weights from his glory year and is one of the oldest in the field so he hardly represents great value. Yet, as he always appears a better beast when the daffodil trumpets are out, he cannot be ignored.

The soft ground should be in

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Best outsider: Scotton Banks

Grand National

Now

results.

1 Suny Bay

2 Him Of Praise

3 Rough Quest



Friday, but that was on the Flat seem to master, Challenger Du preparation for today's encounter, was like going for a shower as practice for a cross-

Of the many horses out of

of the question as Samlee knows what it is like to cross these fences successfully, having collected the Becher Chase here in November, Richard Dunwoody goes for his third win

If the animal-rights army send a battalion today, one focus for their attention would be! Him Of Praise, whose preparation has included chasing Basil Brush with the hounds. Another leading jockey and a man who does not have many Nationals left in him. Charlie Swan, takes the ride. Him Of Praise has schooled over mock Aintree fences at Lambourn this week, though there is nothing false about his form on which he should beat both Earth Sum-

GREG WOOD

the free number is 333,

mit and Nahthen Lad. The champion jockey, Tony his favour, though against Avro McCov, partners the one horse Anson, who ran quite well last in western Europe he cannot

I Dun Belle

available

onthe

2 Rough Quest

3 Challenger Du Luc

4 Him Of Praise

The experts opinions ### -- - -

at Doncaster, which, in terms of Luc. The gelding's class is undoubted, but he is increasingly loath to use it as the most notable member of the turf's care in the community programme.

Scotton Banks too has qualthe handicap, most interest is ity about him, or at least he used generated by Samlee and Him to. The nine-year-old was a Of Praise. There will be some smart chaser two years ago uncard in between. And yet, when sorry figures tonight at the til someone shut the lid on his it comes to the local bookmak-White Lion in the Warwickshire ability. He is still not an old village of Bulkington should the horse, however, he stays as obscure corner of an ancient former succeed. The regulars long as you like and is too big Mass intoxication is not out for a place.

> The one for the win money though, is the horse that finished second last year on unsuitably hard going. It is going to take a real yomper to succeed this afternoon and SUNY BAY (nap 3.45) fits that vital criterion.

The nine-year-old had an unusual preparation for this event. In the Cheltenham Gold Cup the grey almost suffered death by a thousand cuts when he dropped his hind legs in a couple of fences and returned with wounds interweaved across his rear. Phil Sharp, Suny Bay's lad. has spent many hours removing splinters from the injuries.

Sharp was the man who stayed behind after the bomb warnings a year ago, when he feared that he might be picking more devastating shrapnel out of the many horses in his care. The lad was the hero of Aintree 1997. Now it is his horse's turn.

HYPERION

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Small wonder Vodefone

is today's favourite.

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you call Secon an the

1 Him Of Praise

2 Rough Quest

3 Court Melody

4 Suny Bay

Best outsider: Scotton Banks Best outsider: Celtic Abbey

How to place a bet without embarrassment

BETTING - everyone's doing it these days. A lottery ticket every Wednesday and Saturday, and maybe the odd scratch er's shop, it might as well be an map marked "Here be dragous" cerned.

The Lottery may not be much fun, and what little thrill it holds rarely lasts past the first four balls, but at least it is easy. Betting on the nags, by contrast. is probably difficult and potentially embarrassing. Not so. In truth, a punt on the horses is all Fourth, are you going to take a

Greg Wood guides the once-a-year punter through the mysteries of the betting shop

it is not a mindless, random transaction also makes it considerably more satisfying. There are no more than five

need to be taken. First, which horse do you want to back? Second, how much do you want to risk? Third, do you want a straightforward win bet, or would you rather go each-way and get a return if your selection is in the first four home?

too easy, and the very fact that price? And finally, are you paying the betting tax up front (an easy one, this, since the answer should always be yes).

Steps one and two are up to since an each-way bet is, in fact, two separate bets. The first is to win, the second to finish in the places, so a £1 each-way bet will cost £2. If your horse finishes second, third or fourth, the win bet is obviously a loser, but the second wager is paid at a quar-

stance, at 5-1 about a 20-1 race. chance, returning £6). If, however, it comes first, then the win bet is successful too, adding, in clothes for your visit to the this example, another £21 to the

offer is one of those Sod's Law ing of fag smoke (Alternatively, s, dot as a general tille : can be fraught with confusion, it pays to shop around wherev-up). And if there is an old chap er possible and take the best in the corner muttering to himprice you can find (see page 18). self, on no account allow him to

the back in case your maths is fully, an experience you may

ter of the odds for a win (for in-tal, and retire to watch the There are only two other

points to remember. Wear old bookie, or at least an outfit that needs washing, since even a fair-Whether to take the price on ly brief visit will leave them reek-Finally, once you are happy exhale in your direction. Follow with your total stake, add on the all these simple rules, and your tax at nine per cent (most slips trip to the bookies should be inhave a handy ready-reckoner on teresting, pleasant and, hope-

55

建设工作

Sec. Day

Take the Rough route for a second National success

Suny Bay: Second last year on much faster going to Lord Gyllene under a light weight but faces a stiffer task at the top of the handicap this time. Should like the easier ground. Rough Quest: The 1996 National winner uncharacteristically fell in the Gold Cup last time but came out of the race unscathed. He is reported to be fit and well and looks likely to go off as favourite.

Challenger Du Luc: An enigmatic horse who does not seem to relish a struggle and may not last out this trip of four and a half miles. Banio: Has not shown enough

worthwhile form this season to Scotton Banks: The horse and

the stable are way out of form. Earth Summit: As game as they come and has proven stamina for a slog in the mud having won the Scottish and Welsh Nationals. Every chance of making the frame.

Avro Anson: Ran disappointingly at Haydock and would be unsuited by soft ground. Has to improve dramatically. Nahthen Lad: Represents the Jenny Pitman stable and stays

all day. Will be putting his best foot forward at the finish -if he does not get detached. Dun Belle: Has good form against Dorans Pride but ran very poorly last time and I

have doubts about this one completing the course. General Crack: Has not sparkled this season. Ciel De Brion: A French raider who was fourth in the

Hennessy Gold Cup but does

not look good enough here.

Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of the Grand National

The former National Hunt jockey Steve



up two big prizes this winter way out of the handicap but and has form over the course. Has an each-way chance if his last outing is discounted.

Go Universal: It would be an outstanding training performance if this horse won first time out. Come to think of it, it would be a miracle. Celtic Abbey: The trainer is in

good form - the horse is not. Him Of Praise: He has had an excellent season in winning four times from six starts but needs plenty of encouragement from the saddle. Stays well and likes the mud and should run a big race. Into The Red: This OAP is

over the hill at the age of 14. St Mellion Fairway: This year's form does not put him in the frame. What A Hand: Not good

enough. Samlee: Although 10th out of the handicap this tough, consistent individual stays well and can make the frame.

Gimme Five: I will give you 10 if this wins.

Greenhil Tare Away: I would not like to be riding this one. Stormtracker: Unlikely to run. Yeoman Warrior: Inconsistent but did finish second in last year's John Hughes Trophy over the National fences, Pond House: Last ran over two

miles and a forlong, so this trip is a big question mark. Brave Highlander: Jumps well-

Court Melody: This one picked and will stay the trip. A long could run well.

Hillwalk: No chance. Joe White: First run of the season - who is kidding who? Diwali Dancer: I rode him over hurdles but would not partner him over these giant obstacles. Do Rightly: Do rightly - and forget it.

Killeshin: Stays all day but at a slow pace.

Fabricator: Not a prayer. Pashto: Has had problems. and will do well to complete. Damas: Very little chance. Radical Choice: His last run was in a novice chase so he will be lucky to get round.

Choisty: Ex-point-to-pointer who faces a daunting task. Griffins Bar: Fell here over these fences on Thursday and has not got the form to figure. Maple Dancer: Has not completed in his last three outings. Winter Belle: Connections are expecting a lot from a horse that carries 2st overweight Decyborg: Should stay at home.

Conclusion: Suny Bay ran respectably in the Gold Cup and has a good chance of improving on last year's second. However the 1996 National winner. ROUGH QUEST, is reported to be in good form and looks the one to beat. The dour stayer Earth Summit and the consistent Samlee have sound each-way claims.

The Grand National.

rusty). Hand over the grand to- care to repeat.

With luck, we'll be seeing you twice today.

THE MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL 4rr 4f. Handicap Chase. Aintree, 3:45pm, Live on BSC. 6/1 Rough Quest 8/1 Him Of Praise 8/1 Suny Bay 9/1 Earth Summit 66/1 Radical Choice 66/1 What A Hand 100/1 Decyborg 100/1 Go Universal 100/1 Into The Red 9/1 Samles 11/1 Challenger Du Luc 16/1 Dun Belle 100/1 Pashto 100/1 Winter Belle 100/1 Yeoman Warrior 20/1 Banjo 20/1 Ciel De Brion 150/1 Diwali Dancer 150/1 Do Rightly 150/1 Joe White 25/1 Brave Highlander 25/1 Scotton Banks 150/1 Pond House 28/1 Court Melody 200/1 Damas 28/1 St Mellion Fairway 33/1 Celtic Abbey 33/1 Choisty 200/1 Greenhil Tare Away 200/1 Griffins Bar 200/1 Hillwalk 33/1 Gimme Five 250/1 Fabricator 500/1 Maple Dancer 50/1 Avro Anson 50/1 General Crack LINES OPEN FROM 8AM TODAY

Ladbrokes

Grand National colours and form



12-1145 SUNY BAY (16) C Brooks 9yo 12st...... Owner: Uplands Bloodstock

No grey has won the Grand National since Nicolaus Silver in 1961 but this one did better than most last year, finishing 25 lengths second to Lord Gyllena. He won the Hennessy Cognec Gold Cup at Newbury last November, but was a moderate fifth in the Gold Cup last time out. With conditions in his favour, he must have an each-way chance. Golng / Distance / Jumping / Rating 142

2 12-233F ROUGH QUEST (16) (CD) T Casey 12yo 11st 4lb.......M Fitzgerald 6-1 Owner: A Wates

Won the 1996 National in britisht style, but has had injury problems since and, although still useful, at the age of 12 is not the force he once was. He was still going well when falling in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last time, but the fact that he came a cropper at all has to be a major worry given his short odds

Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ? Rating 151

Chettenham Gold Cup last time and is unlikely to last today's marathon distance.

3 222F40 CHALLENGER DU LUC (16) M Pipe 8yo 11st 3lb ... A P McCoy B 11-1 Owner: D Johnson Talented chaser at up to three miles, but is notorious for finding nothing under pressure. His trainer won the National with Minnehoma in 1994 and, with the champion jockey in the saddle, he might just take to these tences. However, he finished well besten in the

Going ✓ Distance 🗶 Jumping ? Rating 147 346-P03 SCOTTON BANKS (28) (C) T Easterby 9yo 10st 7lb Wyer 28-1 Owner: I Bray

A very smart performer two seasons ago, who tooked like he could make it right to the top, but has had his problems and has been a shadow of his former self this term. Finished a remote third on his latest start at Doncester and, unless he can recapture his former sparkle, seems unakely to make much of an impact. Going / Distance? Jumping / Rating 139

A useful novice chaser three years ago, but had to undergo an operation for colic and did not race for almost two years. Ran promising races early in the season, but had been disappointing on his last two starts. Stays 31/2 miles well, but is not certain to last today's marathon journey and has been off the course for over two months. Going ✓ Distance? Jumping ✓ Rating 144

P/55165 EARTH SUMMIT (35) N T-Davies 10yo 10st 5tb....... C Llewellyn B 9-1 Owner: The Summit Partnership.

Won the Scottish National when only six in 1994, but subsequently had injury problems. However, he came right back to his best when winning the Welsh National at Chepstow last December. Has disappointed on his last two starts, but stays and jumps very well and would have a leading chance if running to his best.

Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 141

Formerly a smart staying hurdler and still lacks experience over fences. Finished sixth in last year's National and might do better this timer although he would have preferred faster ground than he will get today. Showed his well-being when finishing fourth in 21/-mile Flat. race - form figures above are for jump races only - at Doncaster last week. Going ★ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 140

Owner: J Shaw

Smart chaser on his day who finished third in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock in January but has been disappointing since. Finished a well-beaten ninth in last year's Nationat but, if he bounces back to form, he could run well. His trainer has won this race twice - Corbiere (1983) and Royal Athlete (1995) - and this one has each way prospects. Going / Distance / Jumping / Rating 144

9 3-03U2P DUN BELLE (35) P Fahy (h) 9yo 10stT P Treacy 18-1 Owner: Mrs A Connolly.

Won four times in Ireland last season and recently ran the race of her life to finish 15 lengths second to the classy Dorans Pride in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown. However, she tailed to handle Haydock's big tences when pulled up in the Greenalis Grand National Trial last time - an ill omen for her first date with the Airtree obstacles. Going ✓ Distance ? Jumping X Rating 148

10 1/11P3P GENERAL CRACK (37) P Nichols 9yo 10st.......Mr J Tizzard 40-1

Owner: Mrs Sandra Lilley. Useful chaser last season but has had injury problems, was absent for a year and has isappointed this term. Goes in the mud and is a fluent jumper, but is uncertain to last T/:-miles and is not well handicapped. Connections are out for for compensation after See More Business was carried out in the Gold Cup but are unlikely to get it. Going ✓ Distance 7 Jumping ✓ Rating 130

11 32/F2P4- GO UNIVERSAL (434) (C) N Chance 10yo 10stNr S Durack 66-1 Owner: Universal Conference & Incentive Try Ltd.

Useful 21/-mile chaser, who firished second in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Chetterham ast season but has not run this season. Goes well in the mud but is far from certain to stay the distance and sometimes makes mistakes. Trainer won Chellenham Gold Cup with Mr Mutigan last year but is unlikely to get in the winner's enclosure here. Going / Distance * Jumping * Rating 133

12 602440 CIEL DE BRION (31) F Doumen (Fr) 8yo t0st....Mr T Doumen B 18-1 Owner: Henri de Practomal

Gallic raider, who was a creditable fourth to Suny Bay in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury last November. Has disappointed on his last two starts but his trainer has a fantastic strike-rate with his sorties to Britain and this safe jumper, who goes in the mud, could reward each-way support, if he stays the distance. Going / Distance : Jumping / Railing 134

Useful chaser who finished second to Samlee in the Becher Chase over three miles three furlongs over these fences in November and has since won the Agfa Diamond Chase at Sandown. Disappointed in the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock last time but, if he came back to his best, would have a major chance. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 143

14 4U11-4P CELTIC ABBEY (84) Miss V Williams 10yo 10st N Williamson 28-1 Owner: Chris and Antonia Deuters.

Fox lovers may oppose this former hunter chaser on principle and formbook followers could follow suit as this one stays well but unsealed his rider at The Chair in lest year's National, needs tast ground to be seen at his best and was very disappointing in testing conditions on his latest start. His shrewd trainer is a name to remamber, but is best forgotten today. Going X Distance ✓ Jumping 7 Rating 135

11132 HIM OF PRAISE (35) O Sherwood 8yo 10st Owner: M.G.St Quinton.

Thorough stayer, who won Antihony Mildmay Chase at Sendown in January but looked a bit must when staying on under pressure to be second in the Greenals Grand Nationai Trial at Haydock on his latest start. Ideal type for the race if in the mood and, despite having to carry 75 more than his true handicap weight, could go close. Going V Distance V Jumping V Rating 138

16 1142-PO INTO THE RED (14) (C) Mrs M Reveley 14yo 10st.... D Gallagher 66-1

Owner: J Huckle. Veterar, stayer who was once useful and won the three-mis-three-furlong Becher Chase over these tences in 1996 but is now in decline Looks the sort who can be relied on jump round, provided nothing gets in his way, but is surely too slow nowardays to make an impact even in testing conditions.

Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 120 17 1-22P40 WHAT A HAND (18) P Nicholis 10yo 10st...

Owner: J McCartin Formerly a useful insh point-to-pointer (yes, the fox botherers again) and ran well on his first two starts this serm but has become disappointing. Could have been yours for 13,000

gurress at Doncaster Sales tast Monday but, not sure to stay and a far from fluent jumper. You were probably better off leaving that nest egg in the building society. Golog ✓ Distance? Jumping X Railing 134



if outside UK (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (CD) (GF) (C McCam (H) 12/0 11st 25: T Stack 2 8:1—Codes Course and - Course

18 535-560 ST MELLION FAIRWAY (18) P Webber 9yo 10st A Thornton 33-1 Owner: St Melion Estates.

Big strong sort who had some good form last season and finished a creditable fifth in the Thyestas Chase at Gowran Park in Ireland on his reappearance, but has twice disappointed since. Stays and jumps well and goes in the mud but, even if he came back to his best, faces a tough task with 9th more than his true handicap weight. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 133

Owner: White Lion Partnership.

Won the three-mite-three-funlong Becher Chase over these tences in November and has since run well in the Welsh National at Chepstow and the Eider Chase at Newcastla. Stays and goes in the mud, but makes mistakes, is set to carry 10th more than his true handcap weight and his dual National winning lockey is likely to put up overweight. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ? Rating 129

20 1/3003P GIMME FIVE (18) E O'Grady (Irl) 11yo 10st........ Owner: J P McManus

Versable hish chaser who has won at two miles and goes in heavy ground, but is unproven beyand three miles. Disappointing at the Cheltenham Festival on his latest start and must carry 1725 more than his true handicap weight. Medium of a bet of \$10,000 each-way at 56-1 on Thursday. His owner is a legendary Irish gambler, but is unlikely to add to his 'wedge' zoday. Going ✓ Distance ? Jumping ✓ Rating 132

21 3/POPRP GREENHIL TARE AWAY (21) P Hobbs 10yo 10stS McNeili 100-1 Owner: Salvo Giannini.

Was a useful stayer two years ago but has lost his way this season and has clearly had some problems. Was exhausted when refusing at the last fence at Newbury and was pulled up on his latest start when blinkered to try to make him concentrate. Should not be backed and probably should not be running in a race as tough as this. Going ✓ Distance ? Jumping ✓ Rating 115

22 P2-4422 STORMTRACKER (42) C Weedon 9yo 10st.

Thorough staying chaser who was numer up in the National Hunt Chase at the Cheltenham Festival in 1997 and ran well to finish second in the Elder Chase at Newcastle on his latest start. Jumps well but all his best form has been on fast ground and, racing in the mud, carrying 14th more than his true handicap weight, may be his undoing. Going ★ Distance ✓ Jumping ✓ Rating 131

23 2-1FP2P YEOMAN WARRIOR (28) R Rowe flyo 10stRichard Guest 66-1 Owner: Mrs Heather Alwen

Finished second in the 21/-miles John Hughes Chase over these tences last year and has run some fair races this term, but was disappointing last time, carries 17lb more than his true handicap weight and has fallen too recently for comfort. Usually races with his tonguetied and most formbooks students will be in the same boat if he wins here. Going ✓ Distance ? Jumping ? Rating 121

24 11F-131 POND HOUSE (222) (C) M Pipe 9yo 10st...... T Dascombe 100-1

Summer specialist who won at Cartmel and seaside track Newton Abbot back in August but will not find his bucket and spade much use here. Usually a tront-runner, so could be up there early on, but needs firm ground, probably does not stay beyond 21/2 miles and carries 19th more than his true handicap weight. Going ¥ Distance ¥ Jumping ? Rating 111

25 4U1142 BRAVE HIGHLANDER (21) J Gifford 10yo 10st... ...P Hide 28-1

Owner: S Embineos

Front-runner who has had injury problems over the years and went lame in the closing stages when fourth on his penultimate start. Ran a fair race last time. Runs in the colours that made Aldaniti and Bob Champion famous in 1981 but is not in that class. Not sure to stay and carries a massive 20th more than his true handicap weight. Going

✓ Distance

✓ Jumping

✓ Rating 123

The Aintree

One of the smallest fences, but cause the pile-up that enabled Foliation I course A has proved impassable to 61 horses in 15 years, almost 25% of fallers, but claimed only The twin o -Westhea First of the ditches and, after Bechar's and The Chair, the widest spread to clear. There have for been 51 talkers here in the last 16 years. Impact Only s diich on take-off side

PREVIOUS NATIONAL WINNERS

1997: Lord Gyllene 16-1 1996: Rough Quest 7-1 1995: Royal Athlete 40-1 1994: Miinnehoma 16-1 1993: Void race 1992: Party Politics 14-1 1991: Seagram 12-1 1990: Mr Frisk 16-1 1989: Little Polveir 28-1 1988: Rhyme 'N' Reason 10-1 1987: Maori Venture 28-i 1986: West Tip 15-2

1985: Last Suspect 50-1

16 20

1984: Hallo Dandy 13-1 1983: Corbiere 13-1 1982: Grittar 7-1 1981: Aldaniti 10-1 1980: Ben Nevis 40-1 1979: Rubstic 25-1 1978: Lucius 14-1 1977: Red Rum 9-1 1976: Rag Trade 14-1 1975: L'Escargot 13-2 1974: Red Rum II-I 1973: Red Rum 9-1

26 6-U51PF HILLWALK (99) P. Curtis 12yo 10st...... Owner: M.L. Shone.

Fast veteran who won at Chellenham in November but has pulled up on both starts since. Goes in the much and is suited by a strong pace - he will get that all right - but rends to pump low and that's not a good tendency to have at The Chair - 5" 2" with a ditch in front of it you could drive a mini through - if he gets that far. Out of his depth. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping ※ Rating 121

27 1/24F6P- JOE WHITE (463) (C) J H Johnson 12yo 10st....Mr T McCarthy 100-1 Owner: Mrs E A Rhodes.

Once useful chaser who was disappointing last season and returns after a massive layoff. Goes in the mud but is unproven beyond three miles and a furlong and is not the best of jumpers. Carrying 20th more than his true handicap weight, he looks well out of his depth and must be most unlikely to complete the course. Going ✓ Distance Jumping X Rating 110

28 3111 FU DIWALI DANCER (18) M Pipe Byo 10stR Thornton B 150-1 Owner: B Case.

Front-nurrang 2 /-mails movice chaser (had not won a chase at the start of the season) who won little races at Lacester and Haydock earlier the season but has ended up on the floor on his last two starts. Goes in the mud but tacks stamina, is an inexpenenced and sketchy jumper and carries 21th more than his true handicap weight. No chance Going ✓ Distance 🗶 Jumping 🗶 Rating 119

Owner: H J Martners.

Few horses genunely stay 41: miles over two circuits of the National course but this one, who plugged on to finish seventh in last year's National, would go round a third time. Finished fourth in the Welsh National at Chepstow in December but below par since. Has conditions in his favour, but carries 22th more than his true handicap mark. Going

✓ Distance

✓ Jumping

✓ Rating 110

30 F23/P24 DO RIGHTLY (11) M Bradstock 9vo 10st..... Owner: J M Fitzpatnck.

This front-runner had some fair form two years ago and bounced back to his best when runner up at Bangor. However, that was Bangor, this is Antiree, this is the National and, although he goes well in the mud, might stay the distance and jumps well enough, he is way out of his depth carrying 22th more than his true handicap weight. Going ✓ Distance: Jumping ✓ Rating 120

Owner: James Clements.

Ex-Irish 21/2-mile chaser, who is deteriorating with age and has shown little form this season. Goes in the mud but won't stay, has tallen this season and carries 24lb more than his true handicap weight. Has as much chance as a piece of toast (and statistics show that a sice of said snack has yet to even be placed in the National). Going ✓ Distance ※ Jumping * Rating 110

32 4/504-P4 PASHTO (21) N Henderson flyo 10stJ R Kavanagh 100-1

Fair sort on his day and was having his first run for three months when a remote fourth at Sandown last time. Goes in soft ground and jumps fluently but proven only up to $3\,h$ miles and is unlikely to stay much further. Could be up there for a circuit but, carrying 24lb more than his true handicap weight, looks a banker to fade thereafter.

33 13/12U2 RADICAL CHOICE (21) J Charlton 9yo 10st Owner: George A Charlton.

Fair hurdler two years ago, but made his chasing debut only in December (won at Newcastle) and has been twice been beaten and once failed to finish since. Stays very well and goes in the mud, but lack of jumping experience is a major worry and, carrying 28to more than his true handicap weight, his prospects of success are poor. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Jumping Rating 119

34 12131 P DAMAS (96) M Pipe 7yo 10st

Owner: Fergus Wilson. Won selling (lowest grade) hurdles at Exeter and Towcester in the autumn and scored over fences at Windsor recently. Ran badly last time, is unproven beyond three miles and is not the best of jumpers. Throw in the fact he carries 28th more than his true handicap weight and you have all the ingredients for a losing bet on the National

Going

✓ Distance

✓ Jumping

✓ Rating 108 35 11U-2F1 CHOISTY (28) H Haynes 8yo 10st

Owner: G A Swinbank, Sold for 11,000 guineas at Doncaster sales last September, he felt in the Eider Chase at Newcastle before winning a minor chase at Warwick. Goes well in the mud, but has yet to race over this distance, is not the best of jumpers and cames 29th more than his true handicap weight. Only eight, he should go on to win more races. But not this one.

● ③

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<u>®</u> ⊙

Going

✓ Distance

Jumping

Rating 118 36 PP5U-5F GRIFFINS BAR (2) Mrs P Sty 10vo 10st ... Owner: M S Smith.

Fifth to Samlee over these fences in the three-mile-three-funding Becher Chase in November but fell at the second fence in the John Hughes Chase over these fences on Thursday. Stays well and goes in the mud, but is not the most reliable of jumpers - he unseated his rider in the 1996 Beicher - and cames 30to more than his true handicap weight. No chance. Going

✓ Distance

✓ Jumping

☐ Rating 100

37 22-5116 WINTER BELLE (18) J H Johnson 10yo 10stMr C Bonner 50-1 Owner: Mrs M W Bird

Won two chases at Catterick before finishing a fair sixth in a competitive event at the Cheltenham Fastival. However, he faces an even tougher assignment here and, although proven in the mud, he is not sure to not stay, jumps deliberately and cames a gigantic 32to more than his true handicap weight. Enough said. Going / Distance Jumping Rating 117

Fair chaser last season but has made mistakes and has shown little ability this term and has run as if something was amiss with him physically in his most recent starts. Unproven beyond three miles, he needs to improve his jumping but Aintree, carrying 32lb more than his true handicap weight is hardly the arena in which to practice it.

Going ✓ Distance : Jumping X Rating 105 ...P Carberry 200-1 39 122300 DECYBORG (18) M Pipe 7yo 10st...

Owner: Terry Neill. Front-runner who won over hurdles at Taunton in November and has some fair form over

fences, but jumped badly when out of his depth in the Kim Muir Chase at the Chettenham Festival last time and is more so here. Not sure to stay and, carrying a huge 32tb more than his true handicap weight, has two hopes - Bob Hops and no hope. Going y Distance : Jumping X Rating 105

- 39 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Dun Belle 9st 12lb, General Crack 9st 12lb, Go Universal 9st 10lb, Ciel De Brion 9st 10lb, Court Melody 9st 10lb, Celtic Abbey 9st 9lb, Him Of Praise 9st 7lb, Into The Red 9st 7lb, What A Hand 9st 5lb. St Mellion Fairway 9st 5lb, Samlee 9st 4lb, Gimme Five 9st 3lb, Greenhil Tare Away 9st 1lb, Stormtracker 9st, Yeoman Warrior 8st 11lb, Pond House 8st 9lb, Brave Highlander 8st 8lb, Hillwalk 8st 8lb, Joe White 8st 8lb, Diwali Dancer 8st 7lb, Killeshin 8st 6lb, Do Rightly 8st 6lb, Fabricator 8st 4lb, Pashto 8st 4lb, Radical Choice 8st, Damas 8st, Choisty 7st 13lb. Griffins Bar 7st 12lb, Winter Belle 7st 10lb, Maple Dancer 7st 10lb, Decyborg 7st 10lb.

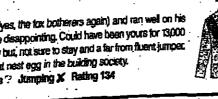
BETTING: 6-1 Rough Quest, 15-2 Suny Bay, 9-1 Earth Summit, Him Of Praise, 10-1 Samlee, 11-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Nahthen Lad, 18-1 Banjo, Ciel De Brion, Dun Belle. 25-1 Court Melody, 28-1 Brave Highlander, Celtic Abbey, Killeshin, Scotton Banks, 33-1 Gimme Five, St Mellion Fairway, 40-1 General Crack, 50-1 Choisty. Winter Belle, 66-1 Go Universal, Into The Red, Radical Choice, What A Hand, Yeoman Warrior, 100-1 Do Rightly, Greenhil Tare Away, Joe White, Pasinto, Pond House, 150-1 Damas, Diwali Dancer, Griffins Bar, Hillwalk, 200-1 Decyborg, Fabricator, 500-1 Maple Dancer

1997: Lord Gyllene 9yo 10st A Dobbin (S Brookshaw) 16-1

Compiled by Ian Davies









Sy Richard Edmondson

the Mumm Melling Chase from the front of the Queen Mother Stand here yesterday when he saw his One Man crash through the ninth tence. When he spoke he asked a companion if the horse was all right. He knew he wasn't. It was the end.

One Man's humane destruction ended one of the more compelling careers of recent turf history. The grey won 20 races and almost £460,000 in prize money, yet those impressive figures told only a portion of his story. Despite his manifest brilliance. One Man attracted more criticism than perhaps any horse of his ability ever has. Two abortive attempts on the Cheltenham Gold Cup persuaded many to speculate this was a horse without the stomach for a battle.

This supposed coward nevertheless managed to win a Hennessy Gold Cup and two King George VI Chases over journeys that were revealed as being outside his optimum range. Perhaps his greatest moment came at Cheltenham last month when he collected a Queen Mother Champion Chase and displayed that this fleet-footed athlete had been asked to hurt himself several times over unsuitable distances.

At every turn Hales defended his muligned property and, as his protector, he became particularly close to the horse.

That made One Man's parting even harder to take vesterday.

There was no threat of the JOHN HALES was watching horror to unfold as One Man vaulted thrillingly in the early stages of yesterday's contest. He stood off several of his fences magnificently until he reached the ninth obstacle. It could have been that he suffered a heart attack as he went into the fence. but the most likely explanation was that he broke his right hind tibia, the long bone which joins the stifle to the hock, in his cataclysmic fall. The injury he sus-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Suny Bay (Aintree 3.45) NB: Lake Kariba (Aintree 2.20)

tained is rare and unmendable. He was put out of his misery.

There was deep sorrow too for One Man's trainer, Gordon Richards, a man in the twilight of his career who has nurtured many fabulous horses over fences. He loved them all, but the one he loved most was One Man. "One Man proved a champion in his last race and that is how he'll be remembered," Nicky Richards, the trainer's son, said. "He was one of the greats and my father's favourite."

Fantastic Fleet will earn only a footnote in comparison with One Man, but he did not know he was an inferior athlete to the grev and he too was someone's favourite. The six-year-old's life was also taken in this parish of Merseyside when he somer-



saulted sickeningly at the sev- protagonists at this level, was the enth obstacle of the National course in the Foxhunters' Chase. He landed dead at the base of the fence with a broken back.

Caragh Bridge fractured ribs in that contest and was taken to the Leahurst Veterinary College, while Arctic Life suffered a suspected fractured neck which was diagnosed as being treatable.

There were casualties too among the amateur riders of this Balaclava of a contest. Ol-

principal sufferer when he was

Connections of the mare could unseated from Blue Cheek at The Chair and kicked around understood the race's real sigby a forest of hooves. McPhail sustained head injuries and was taken to Fazakerley Hospital. awful fall." John Fowler, the He regained consciousness during the course of the journey.

The actual competition at Aintree was a success for the Irish, who pocketed four races. The most notable was that of She's a super mare but I'm very Opera Hat in One Man's race, sad to hear of the death of One lie McPhail, one of the leading but it is not an encounter that Man." Everyone will be.

not celebrate extensively and nificance. "It was very sad what happened, the grey took an trainer, said.

Conor O'Dwyer, the man at the controls, reported: "Opera Hat's not the biggest horse in the world but one of the bravest.

ONE MAN

Breeding: By Remainder Man out of Steal On. Bought: 4,000 Rgns as an unraced three-year-old. Raced over hurdles for Arthur Stephenson and was then sold for 68,000gns at the late

trainer's dispersal sale in 1993. Owner: John Hales Trainer: Gordon Richards

Principal wins: 1994: Reynoldstown Novices' Chase (Ascoc), Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup (Newbury): 1996: King George VI Chase (Sandown), Charlie Hall Chase (Wetherby), King George VI Chase (Kempton): 1997 Charlie Hall Chase (Wetherby), Peterborough Chase on); 1998: Cornet Chase (Ascot), Queen Mother Champion

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

AINTREE

1.45: The threat of a falsely run race is a danger with no obvious pace setter in the field, ADVO-CAT showed dash to be second to Blowing Wind at Cheltenbam and has also won on testing ground back home in Ireland.

2.20: LAKE KARIBA was behind Kadestrof when both were back markers in Cheltenham's Arkle Trophy (level weights). Lake Kariba new gets Hilb and is fan-cied to regain winning form on his favoured going. Jeffell tumped spectacularly to win at Ascol in January but looks fully burdened.

2.55: ISTABRAQ won the Cham pion Hurdle with enounous au thority and will have no problem 3.45: HIM OF PRAISE can win

a Grand National which is desperately short of horses in form. He had Earth Summit, Nahthen Lad, Dun Belle, Court Melody and Into The Red behind or pulled up when runner up to Dom Samourai in the Greenalls in February. 1996 winner Rough in February, 1990 winter accupa-Cup, has shown enough this term to merit respect, while Suny Bay, runner-up to Lord Gyllene. on unsuitably fast ground last year, should also go well. Best outsiders are Celdic Abbey and Court Melody who improved on his second to Samlee in the Secher Chase here in November, to win at Sandown and Newbury.

HAMILTON Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster can beat Inya Lake, who won a seller at the same fixture.

1.48: PIERPOINT, seven lengths fourth to Special Treat in a 66 musery at York in the mud on his last start last year, should go well. 2.10: ALL MADE UP, who

showed some ability on his twostarts last term, goes in the soft. 2.40: TOTEM DANCER, three lengths third of 21 to Protocol in a handican at Doncaster, is pre-

ferred to The Betterwick Kid.

HYPERION 3.45 HIM OF PRAISE (nap) 4.35 Purevalue 2.20 Lake Kariba (nb)

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

There are two lett-hand courses, Grand National circuit is two miles and triangular with a run-in of almost 500yds. Massive spruce and fir fences, several with a steep drop on the landing side. The Middinay circuit is one mile round with conventional park lences.

Course is north east of the city, one mile from the MS7 on the A59, Aintree rail station (served by Liverpool, Lime Street) adjoins the course. ADMISSION: Queen Mother 6. Aintree Stands 165: Courty Stand 155; Teathersals, 198 (under 165 15): Steeplechase enlosure 17 (under 165 22): Courty Stand 155; Teathersals, 198 (under 165 15): Steeplechase enlosure 17 (under 165 22): APP ARIK: County 130: Steeplechase 15.

LEADING TRAINERS (FIVE-YEAR RECORD): D Nicholson 16 within 56 numbers (success rate 34.2%). M Pipe 12-78 (154%), N Twistion-Davies 9-38 (155%), G Richards 7-38 (184%)

LEADING JOCKEYS (FIVE-YEAR RECORD): A P McCov 10 wins from 32 rides (suc-

7-38 (184%)

© LEADING JOCKEYS (FIVE-YEAR RECORD): A P McCoy 10 wins from 32 rides (success rate 31.3%); N Williamson 10 from 54 (18.5%); P Durwoody 8 from 70 (11.4%); P Carberry 5 from 19 (26.3%)

© FAVOURTES: 70 wms in 181 races (38.7%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Shooting Light (visored, 255)

- 1	
	1.45 CORDON BLEU HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS BECAL B) £25,000 added 2m 110yds £18,635
	1 5061G THEATREWORLD (18) (D) (Mrs John Magner) A P OBnen (In) 6 12 0 C F Swain Dark blue
	2 21-93 GRIMES (18) (D) (J P MoManus) C Roche (M) 5 ti 0
	3 -06C-L BELLATOR (18) (CD) (P Richardson) G Bakting 5 to 8
	4 005522 ADVOCAT (16) (II) (The High Speet Racing Syndicate) N Meade (II) 8 10 0P Carberry Green and yellow quarared, green alrewes, yellow armiest, striped cap
	5 00000 CLASSIC EAGLE (15) (D) (Classic Bloodstock Pc) Mis D Harre 5 10 0 Mir S Durack (5)

— 5 declared —

Ammun weight, 10st True handicap weights: Advocat 9st 13th, Classic Eegle 9st
BETTING: 2-1 Ballator, 11-4 Theatheworld, 3-4 Grimes, 7-2 Advocat, 25-1 Classic Eegle
997 Shankar 6 to 7 F Thombor 6) 25-1 (D Nicholson) 18 nan FORM GUIDE

Theatreworld, numer-up in the last two Champion Hurdles and staying on well on the Theatreworld, numer-up in the last two Champion Hurdies and staving on well on the run-in after listabrag had long flowin in this year's race, clearly remains in good form. Belliator has gradually been coming to hand and was in the process of running the race of his life in the Champion Hurdie 18 days ago until being hampered by a taller and unseeting his neter at the final hight. Betator, who likes plenty of our in the ground, was running on well and meets. Theatre-world on 20th better terms. That would seem to make him a stap, but it was this fast pace that suited him and these five runners are likely to go off a lot more sedarely, which could bring in the speed horse. GRIMES. He has been field up and not got into his two runs in this country this season - in a big handdap at Sandowin and the Champion runtife bethind stablemate itsatbrag - but the remains capable of a lot better and can use his runn of foct to upset Theatreworld at a difference of a stone in this small held, then challenger Advocat has run well in his two runs in this country this season and at least has a for more chance than Classic Eagle, who is a stone out of the handicap.

1	2.20	CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £40,000 2m
		JEFFELL (35) (D) (Thomas Balley) A L Moore (M) 6 12 0 C O'Dwyer
		Dark blue and purk diamonate, chevrons on deemed, quartered cap
	4-2213	LORD DORCET (17) (D) Lichn Hoost J Charton 8 ti 9 B Storey
		Figual blue, grey and royal blue haived sleaves, grey cap
	131210	KADASTROF (FR) (18) (D) (BF) (A F Pator) A Dobin 6 11 5 A Thomson
		Gray, red Showed stewest and cap
	TÚ1 23	CUMERIAN CHALLENGE (16) (D) (Cumbrion Industrials Ltd) T Easterby 9 to 3 L Wyer
		Royal bus, yellow size, white sleeves, royal blue cap, yellow size
	361436	FLYING INSTRUCTOR (16) (D) (Lizely Lyell) P R Webber 6 10 13 A McCarthy
		Dark green, light green cross bells, hooped cap
	26040	SNOUN JOCKEY (16) (D) (Street M Merce) M Fice 6 10 17 A P McCry
	-300	Amount accused from the property with the property of the prop

Black, white boace and sleeves, hooped cap 12270 LAKE KARBA (18) (D) P BarberA Coburt Tourry! P Notrols 7 108 T J Marphy Dark green, white checks high green alleves, dark Green and white check cap — 7 declared — BETTING: 3-1 Jelfell, 7-2 Lord Dorcel, 5-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 11-2 Lake Kariba, 11-2 Rying in structor, 6-1 Kadestrof, 12-1 Indian Jockey 1997: Down The Fell 9 10 7 N Williamson 20-1 (J Howard Johnson) 10 ran

or east season's sector notices in regions, where one or his wins was a deleast of Cercaia and Flying Instructor 19to better in at the Punchestown Festival. The Ascort run was only his third outing of the season and he easily ran up to that form when blundering and unseating his noter upsides Opera Hat at the final lence at Neas next time. Print instructor has had rather mixed fortunes this season, his only win corring with our in the ground at Haydock in January. He was so th, four and a half lengths behind third-placed Cumbri-

	2.55	MARTELL AINTREE HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £75,000 added 2m 4f £50,050 BBC1
1		COLLIER BAY (70) (BF) NV E Sorn J Cld 6 m 7
2	-1111	ISTASRAQ (15) (D) Li 7 Vizilizaza) A P Cranen (n) 6 m 7
3	262	KERAWI (18) Math Arther S. Mass Jean Broadhust) N. Tinston-Davies S. ti. 7 C. Llewellyn Light Size, martion chemist, helved steeles, light bise and martion quantited cap.
4	111224	PRIDWELL (18) (D) Fores Bersook and Feet Partnersho) M Pipe 8 to 7
5	11343	SANSIARTINO (18) (CD) % Abdulla D Schoolson 6 tt 7
6	3-3-00	SHOOTING LIGHT (18) (J M Brown) P Northy 5 to 7

BETTING: 1-5 Islabraq, 6-1 Pridwell, 8-1 Collier Bay, 10-1 Kersen, 14-1 Sermentino, 20-1 Shoot ing Light 1997 Street 7 to 7 M A Propertid 14-1 (R Algebra) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Collier Bay hasn't had much racing since his finest moment when he best Alderbrook and Pridwell in the 1996 Champon Hurdie, which was rather less impressive than the demolition job ISTABRAQ did on Theatreworld in this year's race. Pridwell (fourth after a store start) and Kerawir (fifth) bettind istabriaq in this year's Chempon Hurdie are both better suited by this longer trip and much easier ground, then that also applies to Istabriaq, the was one of the easiest winners of the race for a long time and, while his 11th straight win sn't a formatity, hell be odds-on to achieve it. Shooting Light finished in front of Senmartino in the Champon Hurdie.

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (CLASS A) £300,000 added 4m 4f (Card on page 17) TA OF CHIVAS REGAL AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICE HICAP CHASE

Ľ	4.35	(CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f
1	muP2	BLAIR CASTLE (181) (D) (BF) (GK Partners/ap) Miss L Russell 7 11 10. Mr M Bradburne (5)
2	-530m	FORESTAL (42) (Silly Maguire) J Howard Johnson 6 ff 5 Litt C Bonner (3)
3	22221	BRESPRAY (23) (D) (Travor Hermangs) Mrs S Smith 7 ft 5
4	2-115	CALLING WILD (16) (Hunt & Co (Bournemouth) Ltd) P Nicholk 8 11 2
5	-U.211	PUREVALUE (16) (D) (Mrs Jean Turpe) M W Easterby 7 10 5 Mr S Durack (5)
δ	3F.3FP	AH SHUSH (42) (Mrs T Prichard) Dr P Prichard 10 10 5
		- 6 declared -

Syl	1971: Hest of meeting attandoned (borno scare)									
5	.15	MARTELL CHAMPION STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m 110yds £9,960								
ı	111	THREE FRANKS (63) (D) (Frank Harson) M Hammond 6 ft 12								
!	521	COOLAW (45) (D) (Mrs 9 D Carris) F Murphy 5 ti 8 Mr S Durack								
•	50-5	EASBY SLUE (17) (D) (G R Orchard) S Kettlemel 6 Ti 8								
	1	FREELANDER (21) (D) (J P McManus) J J CNed 5 11 8								
i	316	KING'S ROAD (17) (D) (Mrs Nicholas Jones) N Twiston-Davies 5 ti 8 M Kelighley								
,	3214	SIKANDER A AZAM (35) (D) (Lord Daresbury & J Greenat) C Great 5 11 8 . Mr D Costallo								
,	21-									
1	T#G	INDIAN SPRING (17) (D) (Joe & Joanne Richards) M Place 6 11 7								
,	33	BODFARI NORTH (12) (BF) (Bodien Stud Ltd) M W Easterby 5 tl 4Mr K R O'Ryan								
0	2	CROCADEE (30) (W Jerks) W Jerks 5 11 4 P Heriley								
1	3	ROSSMAR (23) (Never Hammergs) Mrs S Smith 5 1) 4								
2	2	STAR OF DUNGANDION (52) (Mrs L M Sewell) M Pipe 5 11 4								
3	32	WHO DARES WAS (12) (BF) (Mrs A Maler) JJ Chail 5 TI 4								
4	1	DRAGON LORD (45) (D) (P D Savil) Lady Herries 4 11 2 Doubtful								
5	00÷	PURPLE LACE (37) (Kevn Danel Crabb) H Howe 6 10 13								
6	1	SAHARA REEN (29) (D) (J Norten) J Norten 4 10 Tl								
7	2	MY TERM (21) (P Dutton, F Ford, D Silwood) L Wells 4 10 7 L Computers								
		_ 17 riorioral _								

- 17 Decision - 17 Decision - 17 Decision - 17 Decision - 17 Decision - 17 Decision - 18 Decision - ● Aintree 2.20: the Tote bet: 11-4 Jeffell, 100-30 Lord Dorcet, 5-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 11-2 Flying Instructor, Lake Kariba, 13-2 Kadastrof, 11-1 Indian Jockey. Coral bet: 3-1 Jeffell. 7-2 Lord Dorcet, 5-1 Cumbrian Challenge, Lake Kariba, 11-2 Flying Instructor, Kadastrof, 12-1 Indian-Jockey Aintree 2.55: the Tote bet: 2-5 Istabraq, 6-1 Pridwell, 8-1 Collier Bay, 10-1 Kerawi, 14-1 Sammartino, 20-1 Shooting Light

	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	
Fate of the Invountee:	E	F	: 4	5.	4	`v	. 3	7.	1	
Winner's place in bettir	ıg:2J	D	-0	Q.	9	· V	. 0	- Đ ·	. 1	_
Starting-prices:	10-1	28-1	16-1	12-1	14-1	. V -	16-1	40-1	- 7 -1	-
Winning weights:	- 110	103	108	106	107	V.	108	106	107	
Winner's age:	9	12	71	Ħ.	8 :	٧	11.	. 12	10	
Profit or loss to £1 state	e: Fav	ourte	* C	00 -9	econe	Fay	ourite	s -£8.	50	_
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Longest-priced wirmers	: Roya	Ath	nte (19	95) 40	H·				· ·	_
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Rough Quest	<u></u>	· 5-1	61	- B1	Go Universal 65-1 65-1 100-1 66-1
Suny Bay	6-1	7-1	8-1	81	Into The Reci 100-1 65-1 100-1 190-1
Earth Summit	91	10-1	91	<u>91</u>	Redical Choice 66-1 68-1 66-1 100-1
Him Of Praise	10-1	10-1	81	91	Whiter Belle 65-T 65-1 160-1 50-1
Serales .	10-1	11-1	91	91	Vectoria: Wheriter 65-1 66-1 100-1 100-1
Chellenger Du Luc	12-1	71-1	71-1	- 12-1	Distall Clancer 66-1 150-1 150-1 150-1
Nahihen Lad	14-1	15-1	161	18-1	Do Rightly 100-1 150-1 80-1
Banjo	20-1	20-1	20-1	. 15-1	Joe White 190-1 100-1 190-1 100-1
Clai De Brion	· 18-1	18-1	20-1	18-1	Passino 150-1 100-1 100-1 150-1
Dun Belle	20-1	16-1	16-1 ·	16 -1	Pood House 150-1 100-1 150-1 100-1
Court Melody	25-1	Z -1	28-1	25-1	Dames 150-1 250-1 200-1 50-1
Bane Highlander	25-1	224	25-1	23-1	Greenini Tere Army 150-1 200-1 200-1 200-1
Killeshin '	25-1	33-I	33-1	251	Hillmark 20-1 150-1 200-1 150-1
St Melico February	33-1	33:1	284.	33-1	Fabricator : 200-1 200-1 250-1 200-1
Ceilic Abbey	40-1	33-1	33-1	28-1	Decytory 200-1 200-1 100-1 200-1
Gitame Five	44-1	38-1	83-1	40-1	Griffice Ber : 250-1 : 50-1 : 200-1 : 200-1
Scotton Banks	40-1	28-1	Z-1	28-1	Marph Dancer 500-1 500-1 500-1 400-1
Auro Assess	50-1	33-1	50-1	38-1	Storphychus Doubilui
Chulchy	50-1	60-1	33-1	50 1	Each way a quader the citals, places 1, 2, 3, 4
Gánasai Crack	50-1	50-1 .	- 50-1	40-1	C-Cont H-Wilem Hit L-Tacholas T-Tob

Hamilton, S. S. J. S. J. 1.10 Hodeqa 2.40 Totem Dancer

3.05 Glen Ogii 1.40 Pierooint GOING: Soft STALLS: 51 & 51 - far side I mOf 3 I mS1 - stands uide I m 65/ds - inside

STALLS: \$1.5 8 - for side Intit \$ intst - stands uple Im 65 yds - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for Im 65 yds - 8 Right-hand or dualing course with pear-shaped loop - Course is north of town in B7071. Hamilton West station (service from Glassjow) Im. ADMISSION: Club 312. Grandstand and Pardiod: \$7.56 for OAPs, disabled & students). Accompanied under 163 free all enclosures CAR FARK: Free. - LEADING TRAINERS (5-YEAR RECORD): M Johnston 32 winners from 65 numers (94%). J Berry 30-219 (163%). Miss L Perratt 2012(5.8%), Miss M Reveiley 17-17 (153%). BLADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 4) winners from 62 ndes (27%), K Darley 27-177 (153%). Fortune 21-19 (163%). A Macking 11-108 (193%).

• FAVOURITES: 197 wins from 529 races (9000ess rate 37.2%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

1.10 CLYDESDALE BANK NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) 25.000 added 2YO 5f HADEGA (9) n'èm Betaurry Gadin) P Entre 8 12 des blue yellow hood wellow beleved dark blue chaward, yellow das CLIBERI (1) * 10 fore : Pearly 8 12 blue within som collar and out?:

 INYA LAKE (8) (D) (6 Mintry M Chamans 8 3. SLE OF SOOR (Autyr) State and Mineral Res.

Dean McKeown 4

TAMPA LOT (F Shorts III and Mineral Res.)

TAMPA LOT (F Shorts III and Mineral Res.)

Mineral Res.

Mineral Res.

Mineral Res.

ons, royal blue preves, drange colo - 8 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Hadaqa, 5-2 Otiben, 11-4 Inya Lake, 6-1 Tampa Lady, 10-1 True Love Ways, 16-1 Isla

overse green equals green shows design armost green cap white con-overse green equals green shows design armost green cap white con-overse green expensions of the control of the contro

A McCarlty (5) 6

_D Egan (7) 2.73

Of Seder

197 Filey 5/33 1.8 T K Fallor, 10-1 W Fendy, traval (5) First

FORM GUIDE

TAMPA LADY has a decent high traval and her see Up And At Emiliasia guvenile winner at Ascot. Shall worth changing on her debut in the hands of Mattain Roberts-and the one should be attractive enough with times of these having expenience. Inly a Lake made at 10 min a seller at the opening Donceater meeting and the experience will not be lost on her Hadega was in the stronger Brochesby States at Donceater Introduction for the most have a fire opening the softer enough with Up in South. Her must have a fire others of the hands on this softer enough Time Love Wave is a likely improver after her unit chance if handing this softer ground. True Love Ways is a likely improver after her int-placed effort against Abses Treasure at Doncaster, Jack Berry is off the mark so Officen a son of the class. First Trump, has to be feared. The betting will give a club to the and-

1.40 CLYDESDALE BANK ASSET FINANCE HAND-OTIES - MIFTY NORMAN (204) MAS Forms Peebles, J. Serry 4.3 Your red and yellow recentered introduct demoes 0:05 ARANTXA (T) (D) runs Arma Yearley) 13 2ca 4 9 9 TO ANAMY AN (1) (U) HATS ARTH MERCHY, THE MERCHY AND THE MERCHY AN

2073.- MISTER WESTSOUND (158) (CD) © Subtractor Miss L Perest 6.8.3 N Kennedy 4.8.75 or 50.6.0 pt/ stealest, dark over prevent, prix data, prix data. Prix data (5) 6.8.80 ms. bus data (2) or 50.6.1 pt/ little (148) (C) ms. 1 Missansh-Maray, C holan 13.8.2 mm. K. Shad (5) 6.8.80 ms. bus data (2) or 50.6 pt/ little (149) (C) for 1 ms. 1 TOTAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

THE CAR DAY COM PARTIES OF COM THE - 13 deck Minerum werger: Fig. 100. True herodicap wergers, Handy Fig. 9th, Best Fect Secret 7st 8th, Craige-Boy

2.10 CLYDESDALE BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 3f # 25% ONE LIFE TO LIVE 1851) F Formation Change 15 9 12 ... IP Fredericts (7) 7 45 and change and pressure and pressure theory can yet be short to the Male (8) 1878 1879 F Market 63 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 63 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 63 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Market 64 12 ... K Darley 3 40 Male 1870 F Male 1870

Per Gas hoop Check can SWEET NOTE (5) (1 First, Vass , Rengt 49 7 . J McAuley (7) 1 33 St. ALL MADE UP (USA) (158) "Value Audient"; M Bet 3:96 Ante not seems with day not demont
TOUCHEL DU BOS 7 A magain 19 January 355 MR Roberts 4 arrowd men, not also refer seems entered grow and not shored cap
TOUCH LADY RACHEL (12) flore Verificació U. Sinc 18 1 T Williams 2 64 Fundament After Cattoria retroit are white dament

BETTING S-4 Lody Rachel, 9-4 All Radio Up. 3-1 Touchez du Bois, 5-1 Sweet Note, 8-1 The Vale, 12-1 One Uta To Live, 16-1 Hamatian Princess
557 - 10 Composition one FORM GUIDE

Lady Rochel is it and shes up in distance after a couple of sound efforts over a mile on the att-weather But preference is for Wansel Selfs ALL MADE UP, who kicked off with a cromoding fifth of 17 to Wansels at Ledester (Im) tast October, He showed nothing a complete of the of 17 to Wansels at Ledester (Im) tast October, He showed nothing a terrephilities in the same storre but it is a weak mader and he could be good enough. Main uphrations reactioned flouched by Bois is out of a Bustino main so she has every hope of golding the him the other horses could be in trouble. The Vale was seventh to like the Color of the ALL MADE (proceedings) and name on the color of the ALL MADE (proceedings). 2.40 CLYDESDALE BANK HANDICAP (CLASS D) C4

red, white seems, black steries, while seems and cap 0200-0 LORD ADVOCATE (5) (CD) (Mrs. J. McFadyen-Murray) D Noten 10 8.1 K Shed (5) 4.2 80 reyel blue, prik stars, royal blue cap, pink star

-7 declared PETTING: 9-4 Totam Dancer, 3-1 Downdon Star, 4-1 The Butterwick Kid, 9-2 Ledgendry Line, 7-1
Rossel, 10-1 Lard Advocate, 12-1 Back Row
937 Sea Freedom 5 9 6 S Drowne 5-1 tay (G Baking) drawn (8) 18 ran
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Top apprentice Adman McCarthy is on warning hundler Rossel, but Peter Montaint's change has always shown a pretension to taster ground than this. Keenen Fallon has a good record when learning up with Les Eyne Somdar winning at the opening Doncester meeting) and TOTEM DANCER ran in the Cesarevillch after her win on the course last September (best Lord Advocate) in the hands of Fallon. There was title wrong with her third to Protocol in an apprentice race at Doncaster nine days ago, and this dig in the ground shouldn't be a problem after the course win. The Buttlerwick Kid can only do better for this longer the part has the stirred to Right City here (thi 3f) last Monday. A tough sort who has also won over hundles. The Buttlerwick Kid wards mud and he's the one Totem Dancer has to see off. Dovedon Star won with Kieran Pallon at Newmarket last backend, but will be ridden here by Jason Weaver, who partnered the fitty when she ran with lots of promise in third to Turncole at Doncaster eight days ago, Dovedon Star is probably better over the short-er tho so must be in with a fighting chance seven with the big weight. Ledgendry Line has won two of his four hundle starts and he has a 2th lover mark compared to his fourth to Top Cees at Ayr last September. He will stay well in the mud and is another no easily demissable in a trappy handicap.

3.05 CLYDESDALE BANK EQUITY APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP (ROUND 1) (CLASS F) 23,500 added 1 m 65yds HANDICAP (HOUND 1) (CLASS F) 23,500 added 1m coyos 5000 FLASHTAKIN FLOOD (AS) (D) (Nesset House) Ms M Reveley 4 9 0 ... 0 Williams 3 50354 ROCK (SLAND LINE (12) (CD) (J 9erry) J Berry 4 9 8 P analogs 3 34522 STOPMLESS (194) (CD) (D St Carl J Gottle 7 3 7 S Frunchors (3) 2 2500) WARNING REEF (222) (valley Paddocks Racing) E Alstin 5 9 0 P Classy (6) 5 50022 (CLIN OCR. (149) (M A HORSTAND AR) M CORRIOR 4 8 10 P Classy (6) 5 40543 THE BARKSLEY BELLE (12) (K Meynell J L Eye 5 8 7 S Buckley (3) 9 4250 HINCIPAL BOY (170) (CD) (Dris Morach J Gover 3 8 9 P Friedricks 6 4250 HINCIPAL EXCEPT (18) (D) (Ms Glian Curri) R Cages 6 8 3 J Bosley (3) 7 6 doctard L VICE (12) (D) (Vargalettar Racing) R McKelar 6 7 10 ... J McAuley (3) 7 mm/m weicht: 7 to 10 th The handican weichts. Hutches Lady 7:1 50.

- 9 declared -Manmum weight: 7st 10th True nancicup weights. Hatches Lady 7st 5th. BETTING: 3-1 Rock Island Line, 4-1 Line Project, 5-1 The Berneley Belle, 11-2 Glen Ogil, 6-1 Flastabildon Flood, 7-1 Principal Boy, Stormiess, 10-1 Hatchies Lady, 14-1 Warning Reef 1997 Rantac Waltzer 5-9 4 Carchyn Bales (5) 9-2 fax (D Michals) chawn (14) 35 ran

3.35 CLYDESDALE BANK RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 1m 65yds 9200-2 CAROUSE (4) (John Carey) M Charmon 9 0. A Mackey 2 0000 PRINCE NECHOLAS (250) (Addyn Sud Lith K Hogg 9 0 L Chemot 8 0000 TOM (149) (C D Barbe-Lorde) J Hefretto 9 0 N Kennedy 3 0000 CELESTIAI, WELCOME (151) (Welcome Aliance) Virs M Reveley 8 T . A Calhese 1 0145 HOLY SMOKE (24) (John Roborts (Welcome Aliance) Virs M Reveley 8 T . K Fellon 5 000 HOT TOPIC (127) (Oscalo Pedoni) A Kelleway 8 T . K Darley 4

BETTING: 2-1 Holy Smoke, 5-2 Carouse, 3-1 Hot Topic, 5-1 Torn, 7-1 Calestial Wolco Micholae 1937 - Purchasing Power 3 9 0 S Drowne 7-4 (1 tay (N Callaghan) chawn (5) 8 ran

AINTREE

2.00: 1. PROMALEE (C.F. Swart) 9-4 fav. 2. Rainwetch 6-1; 3. Samuel Wilderspin 11-1, 12 ran. 6, at. (A.P. O'Brien; County Car-low) Rote: E330; 1:50, 12240, E300 DF: 1070. CSF: £15.26. Trice £61.70. 2.38: 1. OPERA-HAT (C O'DWyer) 10-1; 2. Or Royal 5-2; 3. Strong Promise 2-1 |t tax. 5 ran. 2-1 |t tax One Man. (feg. 14, 23. U Fowler, Symmetrik Co Meeth), Tota: 29-0; 2190, \$18. DF: 2800, CSF; 23130.

\$190, \$18, \$PF. \$280, \$C\$F. \$2130.

3.10: 1. BOSS DOYLE (A P McCoy) 5-4fav; 2. Occold 16-1; 3. Canthe Coin 50-1; 8.
ran. 13, 24, \$(M Morris, Instand). Tota: \$2.20;
\$140, \$2.70, \$3.80, \$DF. \$20.40, \$C\$F. \$2870.

3.45: 1. CAVALERO (Mr A CharlesJones) 33-1; 2. Elegant, Lord 3-1 fav; 3. The
Major General 10-1 30 ran. 1½, \$c\$i; fri Manners, Swindon). Tota: \$40.50; \$200, \$2.70,
\$3.00. \$DF. \$125.50. \$C\$F. \$125.26. \$Tric.
\$256.60.

4.20: 1. LINSINKABLE BOXER (A P Mo-Coy) 10-11 fav; 2. Brackenheeth 25-1; 3. Cloone Bridge 5-1, 12 rain. 10, 1, (M Pipe, Wellington). Rote: £190: £190. £190. £190. DP: £4400. CSP: £3391. Tiro: £5380. NP: Charchiown Glan. 4.50; 1. KHAYRAWANI (F M Berry) 4-1;

2. Cadougold 3-8 tan; 3. Fan Terrier 11-1, 8 ran, N. 8, [C Rocke, Curragh, Co Kidsre). Total: 5450; 5180; 5130; 5220 DF: 5400 CSF 5027, Frost: 5550; 5160 NR: Lucia Forte, Summer Spel.

5-20: 1. BLUE CHARM (Mr M Brectume). 5-20: 1. BLUE CHARM (Mr M Brectume). 8-1; 2. Gitter Isle 5-2 fav: 3. Queen Of Spedes 3-1.6 ran. 5. det. (Mrs S Brectume. Cupar). Tota: EZNO, £190, £190. DE: 5250. CSP: £2581. Tincest: £64.78. Tric: £72.50. NP: Land Atar, Major Bell, Sniper. Jeckpot: £14,915.10 Placepot: £41.70 Quedpot: £590 Place 6: \$4914, Place 5: £2239

SEDGEFIELD SEDGEFIELD
2.10: 1. GAUTBY HENPECKED (N Hanmty) 10-1: 2. Lieffrach 7-4 fair; 3. Beseon
Hill Lady 33-1: 12 ran. 2. 17. (G Moore, Modeham). Bole: 52:90: 52:30. 52:30. 52:30. 52:30.
CSS: 53:38. Tricast: 557:402. Tric:
Not won; 52:16-42 carried forward in Aktrae
245 today, NR. Bold Top, Canombiabotherad,
Golden Sar, Straffan Gold.
2.55:1. CHAMCO

Golden Bar, Straffan Gold.

248: 1. CULANGO (FLESHY) 8-4; 2. Fryung Sabulitie 2-1 fay; 3. Follow De Call 7-1. 8. ren. 9, 374. (4. Fitzgerald, Mallion). Tobe: 2270: E10, ETD, 2280. DF; 2240. GSF: 5827. Tho: E160. NF: Adamainc, Irrustantir. Over Stated, Shraing Edge, Silver Miru.

3.20: 1. HARIFDECENT (F. Niver). 7-4 fax; 2. Stage Fright 3-1; 3. Deef Cluray 10-1. 8 ran. 5. 8. (Mrs. M. Hevcley, Sathum). Tobe: 2290: E30. E30. E30. DF; 2250. CSF. 2708. Pilos: E500. NF; Dawn Lad, North Prote, Oasley, Rocket Run, Rustic Ak, The Tassier.

3.55: 1. FORDSTOWN 64. http://dx.doi.org/10.100/

Placepot: £1240. Quadpot: £830. Place 6: £925. Place 5: £372 LINGFIELD

2.20: 1. TOUCH UP (K Felon) 5-5; 2. 189-fair Bellevins 10-1; 3. Stavanger 4-5-52; 4 ran. 11/4, 14. (Miss Gay Kellewey), Tata: C190 DP: E790. CSF; E1121. 2.58: 1. HOPEFUL STAR (K Felon) 9-4: 2. Sweet Petoopie 5-2; 3. Serrow Creek 7-4 fax. 7 ran. 1%; 1 (Mass Gay Kelenny) Tota: £3.20; £170; £180. DF: £210. CSF: £533 3.30: 1. SLIP VENTURE (VDs)/ 5-5; 2. Browning 8-11. fev. 3. Verocky 9-1.4 fm. 6.2/A. (S Woods) Total C30. DF: £140. CSP. 5298.

Structure.

4.05:1. ROBO MAGIC (M/Ryer) 5-1 PC 2. Mystical 7-2-3. Plein (Saz. 12-1. 6 rist. Nt. 37- (1. Morriegue Heil), Tour; 2:77: 2:15. 2:40 DF: 22.20; CSF: 26.52

24.75. 5.10: 1. SAICHAROV (A McCarbo) 10.71 Meanware Heights 2-11. 2. Ardent 4-1; 3. Westown Heights 2-18-10 ran. 2%, bd. (P. Ecclest, Nies 2-165, 75%) 53.20, 5150. DF. 58470. CSP. 51407. We set 53686. Rec 526400. Placepot: £19460. Quadpot: £2750 Piece 6: £169.53. Place 5: £62.58- · ·

INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 ± AINTREE 971 981 972 982 HEREFORD HAMILTON 978 985 WHAMPTON (E) 974 984

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

3.55: 1. FORDSTOWN (M-Jame Alexander) 3-1; 2. Graenmount Led 15-8; 3. Fuck's Delight 7-4 fav. 5 ren. 15, 18, (J Barcing, Leels, Tate: Sub; C180, C150, DF; 2430, C3F; 2853, NF; Wind Force.

If you want to catch salmon it sometimes pays to be a bit fly



to Cinciplate Cong. br er geffel. Risk Henry Thom

ANNALISA BARBIERI

ON **FISHING** tor.on a size 9 hook.

The Silver Doctor is a beauthese days as it is deemed 100 fiddly and time consuming to ach, too, since salmon do not eat

also ended up being the biggest

FINALLY, I have caught a sea) so they had to be put back, salmon, and not just one but because, the thinking goes, if three. All tell to a Silver Doc- they have spawned once they may do so again.

However, there is a certain tiful and very complicated fly disagreement as to whether since it is a "fully dressed" pat- fish that have already made it tern (like a fly in its Sunday all the way back to the redds best) which was originally made (spawning beds) from the sea of feathers from such birds as and have then fought like fury crows. Sadly, it is not often used do anything other than give up.

All this on an empty stommake, but in the last century it when they re-enter fresh water ground is crisp with ice and the was a very popular fly indeed. - this is one of the reasons why air heavy with cold). The first salmon of the day catching them is so difficult for they do not take a fly out of a bit disappointing - one always have spawned, got the new hopes one's first salmon will be name of kelts (it is so compli-(salmon that had spawned and the sea, they are so ravenous I'm although you pick up virtual you won't catch anything". were on their way back to the not surprised they like to snack. casting in about 10 minutes and

Alas, all of this happened on real custing takes more like 10 when it is delivered by a sea-not get hooked. They obvious-fancy your rod or equipment is computer, I was playing "Fly years, Fishing by JR Hartley on

CDRom". You begin the game have to strike at just the right by selecting various beats on ei-moment, play him and then net ther the Spey (for salmon and him. If you succeed the comsea-trout), the Blackwater (also puter tells you about your fish. for salmon) and the super posh Test, a hallowed chalkstream. If you fail, it tells you what got habitat for trout and the cur- away. swans, toucans and Indian when caught are in any state to rently very trendy gravling (glorious silver fish with dorsal fins game that another similarity as big as Spanish fans which you

Then you choose a fly and

the weight, sex and condition.

with real fishing became apfish for in winter when the parent; how many rules there white tail deer hair, grey squirare. I'm not talking here of per- rel, the neck feathers of a Chifeetly sensible rules that are nese chicken and golden there to protect both fish and pheasant tippet) 18 years ago. your fishing position and cast folk, but of other things. Let me it revolutionised salmon fishing. of the bag, at 6lb 4 oz. This was hunger. But by the time salmon away. Casting on computer re-explain. In this computer gam:, lies on your dexterity with the as I scrolled through the flies (representing the shrimp's feelmouse or track pad and is - just available to fish with there ers), some anglers laughed. a stonker. And all were kelts cated) and are heading back to like real casting - quite tricky were cries of "Don't use that fly,

This sort of retort, especially the fish would pull the tail and

deign to nibble it. But what if successfully and widely used nobody broke rules and tried

funny things? We would have

invented this fly (made from With its unusually long "tail"

"When they first saw it." Mr G told me, "most anglers swore

salmon flies. Hah.

It was while playing this no Ally's Shrimp now for sure, about what they should or in it". When Alistair Gowans first should not do. They turn up in nooks and watery crannies that defy logic and experience, they are borne out of experience and may shun the most theoretically they are used for the simple reacorrect fly but take a clump of ... son that they work. But somegrass and stranger things vet. times, fish turn their fins on Yes, Alistair Gowans caught a rules and logic, which is why a salmon on a bunch of grass once little childish experimentation - on his back cast the hook is always a good thing. Next caught a tuft of the stuff - and time someone tells me a fly or plop into the water it went and a tactic won't work, I think I'll

soned ghillie on the river bank. iv believed that salmon grow big either. In the excellent Women When you get a fish you makes me as shy as a sea trout, by catching prey by the tail. Not and Salmon by Wilma Paterson Gosh, I think as I blush to my so. Some also said that it would and Professor Peter Behan waders, my choice must be so only work in autumn because (Witherby), there is a charming stupid, so gauche that not even it's orange. Not so." The Ally's little story of a 15-year-old girl the Mr Bean of fish would. Shrimp is now one of the most, who caught a 30th salmon with a "light salmon rod, an old reel with a brake that didn't work Fish do not care a hoot and last year's line with a knot

Of course, these quirky catches are rare. Most "rules" gently ignore them and try it out

Bowlers looking for respite from 15-over battering

Cricket

By Derek Pringle

HOW do you stop a forest fire with a water pistol, or fell modern-day Goliaths with nothing more modern than a peashooter? Metaphorically at of England's one-day opening bowlers every time they step up to bowl the first 15 overs, a time when whirring bats are the Lambert followed by the sonorm, dot balls are a major triumph and anyone managing more than one maiden, is an immediate contender for the man

of the match award. Since the last World Cup, the

During that World Cup. Bob Woolmer, the South African coach, and a progressive, reck get the ball chest high and cramo oned that his side aimed to score the batsman (a tactic that Nick y between 60 and 65 runs during the first 15 overs. Sri Lanka then pretty well by hooking Curtly raised that by 30 runs, a ceiling now further extended by the West Indies, with 15-over scores. of 111 for 2 and 106 for 3 in the Either you try and bowl straight two recent one-day games and short of a length, in the hope against England in Barbados.

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Service -

The bowlers almost exclusively used to try and stem this ing up line and length with slowrun haemorthage have been er balls and yorkers. Dougie Brown and Dean quicker variation on an otherwise medium-paced theme.

Hereford

On the evidence so far, the extra pace appears to have been a burden, and while Brown averages an acceptable 5.2 runs an over, Headley is going for a confidence-sapping 7.7 runs per over. A figure not helped by the bowler's sundry no-balls.

Shell shock is not the sole domain of fighting men and least, these are questions asked Headley has been completely bewildered by the savagery meted out on him. The power hitting of Philo Wallace and Clayton phisticated strokeplay of Brian Lara has disorientated him, and he should now hand over to gunner Angus Fraser before his samity is impaired.

Brown, a level-headed Scot, one-day game has been turned said that despite the carnage, on its head. Although some England had in fact been bowlteams had previously dabbled in ing to a plan. However, given trying to maximise the fielding that the best laid plans get restrictions in place during the rapidly reconfigured when under beavy barrage: this one has possible with relentless hitting ter all, runaway trains do not obey signals at junctions.

Unless you have the pace to Knight has in any case countered Ambrose for several sixes), or you open with spin, there are really only two options available. that the batsman will mis-bit, or you keep him guessing by mix-

Often you can start with one Headley, the latter's inclusion and end up following the other. mainly due to him being a As Brown said before the next two day's back to back one-dayers in St Vincent: "You are con-

With only two men allowed outside the circle, new gaps appear which you have to try and plug. Really, it just boils down to an exercise in damage limitation."

The West Indies have never lost a one-day match here at Arnos Vale, a small fast-scoring ground squashed between the airport and the sea. Against England four years ago, they scored over 300. But if that sounds fairly tame by today's standards, it was achieved before the pyrotechnics at the beginning of the innings were considered standard.

It is a problem that even taking wickets, often the best way to halt a run spree, has not quite solved. Yet whichever team finds a consistent way of coping will probably win the next World Cup, though the conditions in England during May, may not be as conducive to fa ka who showed just what was clearly not been a success. Af- scoring as they have been so far in the Caribbean.

With Mark Ealbam and Robert Croft, able to tie up the middle overs and with Matthew Fleming and Adam Hollioake to bamboozle at the death, it is only the start that needs to be rethought. Unless the current profligacy is stemmed, the England Cricket Board may have to set up a home for battered

 Northamptonshire have signed the West Indies fast bowler Franklyn Rose as their overseas player for this summer. The 26-year-old Jamaican replaces Australia's Paul Reiffel. who backed out of his contract with the county last month because of a shoulder injury.

2.00 RETURN TO JAIL BREAK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 3f

2.35 BREDWARDINE NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 added 2m if



Angus Fraser watches Nick Knight practise at Arnos Vale yesterday Photograph: Allsport

6	29-RP4	PEATSVILLE (P13) M Allen 6 120 Mr J Trice-Religit (5)
7	311-23	PLUCKY PURITER (P20) Jones 10 C 0 . Bt. J L Liewellyn (5)
8	4401 F	PRIDEWOOD GOLDING (P35) & A Thomas 11 12 0
9	30.00	STONEYISLAND (P13) Mrs A Price 9 C.D. Mrss E.J. Jones (7)
		THE POINT IS (P7) P Houst 11 12 0 Mr 8 Poliock (5)
11		EATONS (P42) Mrs P Shaw 7 ft 9 Miss M Coombe (7)
Ē		SWORDELLA (25) Andrew J Martin 10 Tt 9 Mr A Martin (7)
		THORNERUL (10) F Marshers S TI 9 Mr S J Graham (7)
14		VISION OF LIGHT (P20) M Evers 8 11 9 Mr Edger Byrne (7)
_		- 14 declared -
æ	TIME: 7	4 Swordelle, 7-2 Late Encounter, 4-1 Plucky Punter, 8-1 Anns
		1 Delametra, 12-1 The Point Is, 14-1 Pridewood Golden, 16-1
		6-1 others
	-	
E	205	1 BROAD OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS
5	5.25	BROAD OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS
5	5.25	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000
5		NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 3m 2f
1	662045	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 3m 2f BOLD LEAP (10) P R Webber 6 Ti 10 D Thomas (3)
1 2	665042 53044	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 2f South Lap (10) PR Webber 6 Ti 10 D Thomas (3) SULFILE (10) PR Webber 6 Ti 10 M Griffithms (3)
1 2 3	665042 53044 341000	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 2f BOID LEAP (10) P R Webber 6 Ti 0 D Thomas (3) SHRILKANNDI (FR) (14) J ring 6 Ti 9 M Griffiths (3) BLAZE DF SONG (22) D Wintle 5 Ti 7 R Massey
1 2 3 4	665042 53044 341900 22451F	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 2f BOLD LEAP (10) P R Webber 6 m 10 D Thomas (3) SKARLKANNDI (FR) (14) J Fing 6 m 8 M Griffitims (3) BAZZ DF SONG (22) D Winde 5 m 7 R Massey NOW WE NOW (17) M Seeppart 9 m 6 S Kelly (3)
1 2 3 4 5	655042 53044 341000 22401F 0.P3	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 2f BOLD LEAP (10) PR Webber 6 m 10 D Thomas (3) SHARLIKANNON (FR) (14) Jring 6 m 8
123456	665042 53044 34000 22401F 0.P3 534-45	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 2f BOLD LEAP (10) P 8 Webber 6 m 70 D Thomas (3) SEAZE DF SONG (22) D Wintle 5 m 7 R Massey NOW WE KNOW (17) M Sneppar 70 m 6 S KeBy (3) WHITE ST C P SONG (25) C ST C S C Refer (7) B HIGH SUMMER (269) C Marris 8 m 3 Maggae
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	665042 53044 341300 22401F 0.P3 534-45 2123P3	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 3m 2f 80tD LEAP (10) P 8 Webber 6 m 10 D Thomas (3) SKRILKANNOI (FR) (14) J ring 6 m 8 M Griffithm (3) BAZE DF SONG (22) D Wintle 5 m 7 S Massey NOW WE KNOW (17) M Seeppart 0 m 6 S kelly (3) CROSS THE RUBICON (25) C Procks 7 m 5 C Rafter (7) B RIGH SUMMER (259) C Marm 8 m 3 J Magae SALCY NUM (14) (0) P * Rubi 6 m 1 E husband
123456	665042 53044 341300 22401F 0.P3 534-45 2123P3	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	665042 530441 340000 22901F 0.P3 534-45 2123P3 0-0P91	NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 3m 2f 80tD LEAP (10) P 8 Webber 6 m 10 D Thomas (3) SKRILKANNOI (FR) (14) J ring 6 m 8 M Griffithm (3) BAZE DF SONG (22) D Wintle 5 m 7 S Massey NOW WE KNOW (17) M Seeppart 0 m 6 S kelly (3) CROSS THE RUBICON (25) C Procks 7 m 5 C Rafter (7) B RIGH SUMMER (259) C Marm 8 m 3 J Magae SALCY NUM (14) (0) P * Rubi 6 m 1 E husband

4.55 GARWAY NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

Minimum weept: 10st Tuse handled weept: Jungle King 9st 8th Clum Bye & Clumbertand Youth 9st 6th, Capter Stone 9st 5th, Milly Le Macs 9st 8th BETTING: 5st Chief Moments, 41 Eager Berver, 5-1 Shariakanndi, 7-1 Bold Laap, 8-1 Bold La

10 2FOPF SWEET CISEADX (18) (BP) P Brown 5 to 1. Sophiel 11 3FPP. JUNGLE KING (9) A 1 Vition 9 to 6 Miletael 2 224-0 CWM BYS (14) Mrs A Froz 7 to 6 . July 12 PSUP30 CUMBERLAND YOUTH (23) Mss C Carbo 7 to 13 PSUP30 CUMBERLAND YOUTH (23) Mss C Carbo 7 to 14 Miletael 14 Miletael 14 Miletael 15 Miletael 15 Miletael 16 Mi 14 SCP06 CAPTAIN MORRIS (21) P Wegners 5 20 GF Rysn 5 606707 MILLY LE MOSS (14) M Steppard 9 10 D A Bates

Hawks start the long haul

Hockey

By Bill Colwill

OXFORD HAWKS, pushed back into the Inter League play-offs after an appeal ruling rescued Harleston Magpies four points to them, set about ensuring their place in the National League next season at Milton Keynes yesterday rather than resorting to the courts as they have threatened.

Hawks had to settle for a 2-2 draw against Harborne, after dominating the opening exchanges and squandering numerous chances. They took control midway through the first half with two goals inside a minute. Ali McShane, guilty of several early misses, was the architect of both goals - the first for his captain. Simon Dawson, and the second for the former Hounslow striker Matt Osborne. With Hawks reduced to 10 men by the temporary suspension of Ed Baldock, James Wright pulled a goal back for Harborne for a final 2-2 scoreline.

The opening game started dramatically with a secondminute penalty stroke awarded to Eastcote after Peterborough's Steve Gregory sold a dummy to goalkeeper Dan Brown, who was adjudged to have brought him down in the resulting colliduring the week by restoring sion. After consultation, the umpire changed his mind, however.

After Eastcote had twice surrendered the lead, they won two penalty corners with James Grant getting a deflection off Danny Geach's powerful strike for the winner. Grant's moment of glory was short lived as he was sent to the sin-bin for a crude tackle on the restart. As time was called, Peterborough won a penalty corner but clumsily failed to get the ball back into the circle.

Eastcote's 3-2 victory was built on a solid defence, in which a former Cambridge University captain, Colin Carter, did all required of him while his brother, Steve, scored their first two goals. Peterborough's replies came from the non-stop Gregory and their captain, Mark Britton, at a penalty corner.

Results, Digest, page 23

Leopards' title win to spell greatness

through.

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

JF Greater London Leopards beat Sheffield Sharks tomorrow to put the seal on a successful defence of their Budweiser League title, their coach, Billy Mims, is convinced they will have surpassed the achievements of any previous champions.

After Thursday's 97-92 victory over Thames Valley Tigers, Leopards are poised to become the first club to win back-to-back titles since Kingston clinched their third in a row in 1992.

"But there's no comparison," said the 38-year-old from South Carolina, "With clubs allowed up to five foreigners, the league is far more competitive. When Kingston were champions they had two Americans like everyone else, but collared all the best English players.

"Now the talent is spread around. Clubs like Watford Royals and Crystal Palace have struggled all season but they still beat London Towers and Sheffield.

"There's also been much more pressure this time. Last seasons everyone said we would self-destruct and we were the only ones who believed we'd win the title. This time we've been up there as favourites all the way

"Last season winning the title brought a feeling of ecstasy, but this time there will just be a sense of relief. It's been a long, long journey."

Leopards' American guard Ryan Cuff will play despite a broken finger on his shooting hand. The former England international Jason Crump also plays after returning against Tigers on Thursday, but the oft 10in centre faces knee surgery this summer.

Leopards, Birmingham Bullets, Sheffield, Newcastle Eagles. Tigers and Towers are all through to the play-off quarterfinals with the two final places between Leicester City Riders. Derby Storm and Manchester Giants, though Chester Jets could conceivably take the eighth place via a mathemati-

Evans' run ends in last eight

Squash .

THE giant-killing run of Welsh champion David Evans finally came to an end at the quarterfinal stage of the British Open Championships yesterday. Evans, who had knocked

out the third seed in the previous round, lost 9-15, 15-11, 15-6, 15-8 to the Australian 10th seed, Dan Jenson, in 64 minutes at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. The 23-year-old, from Pon-

typool, started strongly and seemed on course for another remarkable win, but an extended rally which gave the Australian 8-9 in the second game seemed to drain Evans' energy and from that point Jenson had the upper hand.

Evans, who came through seed, Del Harris, and then the minutes.

third seed. Jonathon Power, to reach the last eight.

Victory took Jerson into a semi-final against the second seed and defending champion. Jansher Khan, who earlier removed Paul Johnson 15-11, 15-11. 17-15 in 59 minutes.

The defending champion has been troubled by a displaced kneedap and a cartilage tear, but insisted they are not bothering him at the moment, I may have to have an operation eventually, but for the time being I've decided just to play on." he said.

In the women's British Open. Cassie Jackman cruised into the semi-finals. The 25-year-old world No 4 defeated the sixthseeded German Sabine Schöne 10-8, 9-6. 9-7 in 55 minutes.

She now plays the world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald, of Australia, who beat Fiona qualifying, had beaten the 11th Geaves 9-1, 9-6, 9-5 in only 35

British 3.10 Texan Baby 4.20 Dovetto 4.55 Swordelta 5.25 Now We Know GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places). GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places) Right-hand course with 300yd run-dr. Course north of stay on A49, hereford station fm. ADMISSION—Cuto £13; Tattersells £10; Course enclosure £5. CAR PARIC Free: LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 32-98 (S3.7%). N Twiston-Dateies: Stay £2794), P Hobbs: £-56 (23.1%). N Henderson 14-30 (46.7%); LEADING JOCKEYS: S Wynne £-56 (D7.7%). D J Burchell 5-44; (11.4%). T Desconde 5-57 (B5.5%). W Marston 5-74 (68.6%). FANOURTES: 25-54 (39.7%). BLINKERED FRET TIME: Sherezon (13.0, Teppeto (13.0, Cross The Rubicon £25), Apache Park (viscond, 4.20). 1 TIJSPH BAGICAL BLUES (21) Mcs A Johnson 6 Ti 2. _ Mr M Gingelt 2 MP200 RACING HAWK (19) P Boven 6 Ti 2. _ Mr M Gingelt 2 MP200 RACING HAWK (19) P Boven 6 Ti 6. _ Mr M Gingelt 3 RF292 ABSOLUTE FOLLY (7) Mrs S Swith 6 Ti 0. _ D & Bassich (7) 4 OS6- BACIVIEW (F407) B Upwohn 6 Ti 0 _ Mr J L Lievethyn 5 Upwob 8 Ti 0 _ Mr J L Lievethyn 6 Upwob 9 DOPHISTON BOYO (481) I Wall 8 Ti 0 _ J Megtord (7) RP00- DOPHISTON BOYO (481) I Wall 8 Ti 0 _ J Megtord (7) R P30-F DURNICKS WELL (12) F Ticker 8 Ti 0 _ Septrough 9 AS003 GRATE BRITISH (19) J Alan 6 Ti 0 _ Gary Lyons 10 OSF MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 OVER MACS HERD (28) C Smith 8 Ti 0 _ MR Ranger 10 _ MR Ranger 1 1.30 KILPECK MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E)

HYPERION

.30 Sol Music 2.00 Centaur Express 2.35 Grate

Wolverhampton HYPERION 7.00 Courageous 7.30 Young librar 8.00 Hillizah 8.30 Falled To Hit 9.00 Nationalvelvetgirl 9.30 Takhild

COING: Sundard: STALLS: All races - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Help from 61 to the 41

Fibreard surface; left-hand 61 to the 41

Fibreard surface; left-hand 61 to the 41

Fibreard surface; left-hand 61 to the 41

COURSE a SE of fown on 82285 Statem adoins course. Adults Store Co. 615. Termsals 155 (OAP Demond Cub.93); Vewing Restaurant Cub.93; Vewing Resta

7.00 QUICK DRAW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 4f

= 4 declared = BETTRIS: 4-6 Counageous, 11-4 Kemeez, 4-1 Jones Nightengale, 33-1 Go Positive 7.30 SHERIFF CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 22.500 added 5f

3.10 HEREFORDSHIRE INDEPENDENCE DAY H'CAP CHASE (E) 24,500 3m 1f 110yds

1 23354 FEATHERSTONE LANE (18) (CD) Max L Skotal 7 9 8... 2 454260 RAMSEY HOPE (32) (CD) C Fairfurst 58 B. C Loether (3) 2 V 3 00-530 LENNOX LEWIS (33) (0) D Michols 68 t2 ... F Norton 1 B 4 0-5206 HEAVENIVA ABSTONE (14) (0) F Exers 3 8 0 ... F Figure 5 V 4-4002 YOUNG SINR (7) (0) F Exers 3 8 9 ... A McCarthy (6) 5 6 0-94 MARY JANE (45) (CD) J Sers 3 8 9 ... P Fossey (3) 4 -6 declared - Person (3) 4 February Levis 1 Sers
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight, Alaskan Heir 9st 108b, Stage

4.20 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £4.000 added 2m 1f

— 11 declared —
Afternum weight 7st 10th. Tue henoicap weight Deama king 7st 9th.
BETTING: 3-1 Milizah, 5-1 Drama King, 8-1 Innad, 7-1 Glide Peth, 8-1
Sharp Command, Signed And Seeled, 10-1 Regamuffin Romeo, Time
Can Tell, 14-1 Karadieni, Bridle's Pride, 20-1 Bitatot Guthurst 8.30 WILD WEST HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 100yds

Mountain wegit: 7ot 10th. The heridap wegit: Nicker 7st 5th BETTING: 13-8 Terthan, 15-8 Felfed To Hit, 4-1 Sushach, 5-1 Space Race, 14-1 Anonym, 40-1 Nicker

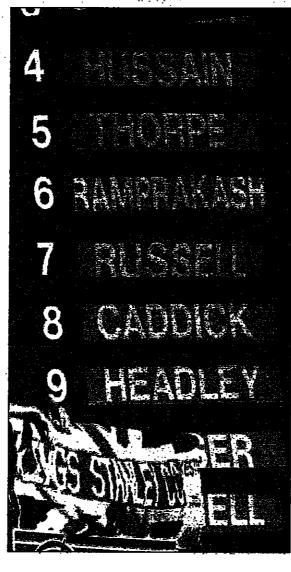
9.00 SIX GUN SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 3YO 1m 1f 79yds

6450-0 PORCELLINO (AI) K Same 3 71 D Soverney (3) A
640-00 DOUBLE APPEAL (15) this G Rees 8 6 ... A Mackey 2 B
NATIONALVELVETORIL R Garden S 6 C Lowther (3) 7
7 Hardwood C Lowther (3) 7 - 7 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Always Lucky, 3-1 Heathyards Shork, 7-2 Nativelgiri, 4-1 Bin Fas, 5-1 Porcellino, 26-1 others 9.30 PALE RIDER HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 6f (D442) LEIGH CROFTER (12) (CD) JAHans 9 2 3 TG Walaughin 9 B | 1000-1 | MARGARETROSE ANNA (7) 8 Bauch 6 7 10 D Wright 1



osela ace v



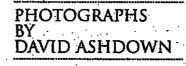


On tour with the **Barmies**

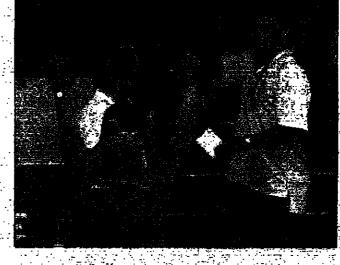
Going on tour with the Barmy Army is really hard work. First, there is the problem of downing enough of the local beer to get in exactly the right kind of mood (see below, at fifth Test in St John's, Antigua).

Then, as at the sixth Test in Bridgetown, Barbados (below left), there is all that noise and teasing from locals who seem convinced that their cricketers make England's look like a bunch of hopeless has beens. Then there is having to dress up, but the idea that the sight of Laa-Laa and friends might somehow disturb the mighty Lara proved mistaken. At least Tinky Winky got to celebrate Mark Ramprakash's Man of the Match award. And then there's having to take your shirt off in all that sun.

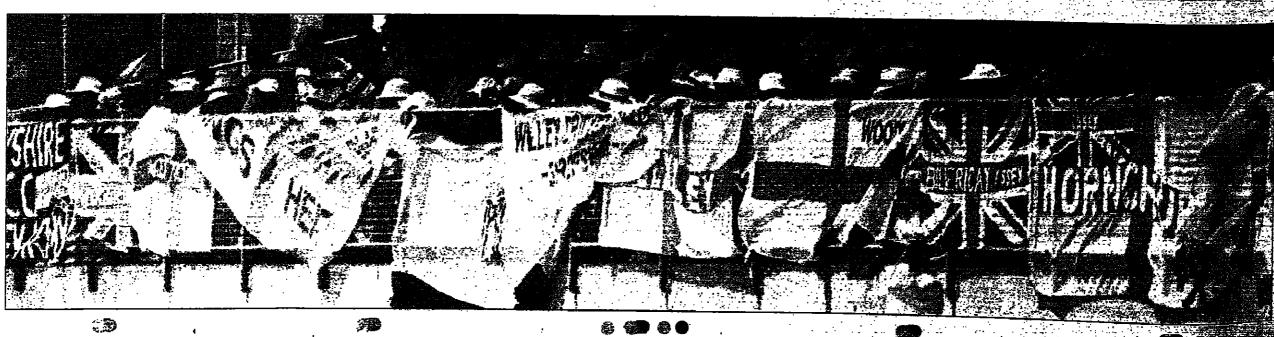
Copies of these photographs—and any others by The Independent's sports—photographers—David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam—can be ordered by telephoning 0171 293 2534.













Tenacious, overbearing, imposing and self-indulgent: how Ruby more than met her match



CHRIS MAUME

she is as famous as her guests outshine even her are light perand that accordingly the rela-sonality? Don King (Ruby Wax tionship between interviewer Mecs..., BBC1) wasn't going to and interviewee is not the usu- play the game and she couldn't al one of supplicant at the great understand why. one's feet begging for crumbs The film opened with her be-

So how was she going to deal

RUBY WAX'S interviewing hadn't either) but who to comstyle is based on the conceit that plicate matters has an aura to self-parody, there was a tone in to the magnificent Duniel Bender of the magnificent Duniel Bender of the didn't want to know, getting a bit like the Nick you're self-indulgent — and

from the conversational table inglectured by a production perbut equals, joshing and banter- son on how to conduct herself ing and having a fun, hanging- when they tried to effect entry out kind of time together. I'm into the inner circle. "I don't told that sometimes the formu- want you going all flouncy," he la works, though I've never seen told her, presumably trying to a show of hers that didn't make break it gently to her that she was my gorge rise with all that ersatz. not going to be the centre of this chumminess swilling around. particular universe. As soon as they encountered difficulties, with a character who not only though she went into the don't had never heard of her (I het the you know who I am?" routine, likes of Sharon Stone and Mel which was going to cut about as

her voice that suggested she was eall in Murder One. "Are you kidgenuinely mystified that there ding? he said. "Right up to should still be people to whom your shoulder blades." her name means nothing.

She was in Las Vegas for defence against Michael Moorer. "You'll recognise Holyfield 'cause part of his ear's missing," she said as she strode through in his last fight. It's a fabulous

Once accredited, but unable to get to King right away, she went around the pre-fight press conference talking to journalists. "Are there a lot of liars in this business?" she asked one slight-Gibson, previous Wax victims, much ice as a plastic spoon. ly frightening bald specimen

The Wax style has its irritations. What may well have been Evander Holyfield's world title a revealing conversation with the Sun's boxing man, Colin Han. took place in whispers as King remember what you were like?" addressed the media corps. meaning that you could make the hotel lobby. "Tyson bit it off sense of neither. This, I suspect, boys." He looked pained and is not so much to do with any nution she has of the kind of programme she wants, more as the first incontrovertibly true because she's afraid that, like a shark that drowns if it stops moving, she'll die if she ceases talk-(presumably through

over-inflation with hot air). It soon became clear that

self-parody, there was a tone in to the magnificent Duniel Ben-cause he didn't want to know. He was happy to spend most of his day granting TV stations a few minutes of his motormouth musings while Way looked on. When he did grant her a few seconds, he was definitely not himself. 'As a boy, can you No response. "Did you have more comple than the other replied dismissively. "I was who I was" - which may possibly rank

> thing he has ever said. That was all she was going to get it seemed, despite virtually begging him for another go, all but kissing his ring, and she was reduced to hovering while be

getting a bit like the Nick Broomfield documentary, The Leader, His Driver And The Driver's Wife in which he's trying to get to the South African fascist, replies "I admire your halls," Eugene Terreblanche. During one interview, she started out standing a few feet away, then got herself a chair and ended up almost in his lap. Emboldened, she interjected a question of her self was a brief but telling voiceown: "Do you think women over, "It sounded like meat are exploited?" He looked away in distaste.

All credit to Wax, though. a baby to attract his attention. "I brought you a haby to show you I care," she said, "What don't you like about me?"

you realise he doesn't like her because she's too much like him. "You're flirting with me," she Colin Hart tells her, "I should" work for the Sun," she says.

Documentary cameras not being allowed into the light, all we had of Wax at the event itbeing thumped," she said of the five knock-downs inflicted by Holyfield. "I decided it was She hunted him down, grabbing probably my last fight." She kissed and made up with King. ton, and he gave her a station ident. As they smoothed, you had to conclude that this was a "You're tenacious, you're match made in heaven,

Toseland's race with history

Keith Elliott predicts that a teenage Doncaster motorcyclist will soon

land. Until last-year, the peo- "What about weekend work?" ple who are paying him a rumoured £100,000 a year at weekends," he replied. hadn't either. No surprise, rekid from Doncaster who had not even passed his test.

Toseland has passed his mo-sport 600cc race. torcycle test now. He has passed ike the reigning British 600cc through."

short of sensational. talented rider himself, says: "I even to Mike Hailwood, to find the same special talent. He's still

very, very good." Toseland has a two-year contract to ride for Castrol Honda's World Supersport ing that I wanted to do." team. He will be by far the youngest rider in the series, but many feel this will be just anbecoming world champion. ...

What would his old careers land still recalls the look of amused scepticism when he said that he wanted to be a pro- aster. Though he had sponsorfessional racer. Like a pop singer, riding a motorcycle at 150mph was not seen as a proper job. But this was a promising lad. Perhaps he could be and all my confidence from the

have the eyes of the world on him-YOU have probably never dissuaded from this childish heard of James Michael Tose- fantasy. So Toseland was asked: "I am only planning to work

He went on to pass all nine ally. When you are searching for of his GCSEs, including a memthe next world motorcycle orable home economics exam. champion, you probably Straight after baking a cake, he wouldn't waste too much time was collected from school and watching a skinny 16-year-old headed straight to Brands Hatch for the first practice session in the European Super-

Toseland was not being facehis car test (though he failed tious when he revealed his chofirst time for poor observa- sen career. "I have said, from tion). He has also passed, time the age of eight, that I wanted and time again. Europe's best 10 be a motorcycle rider. That's 500cc and 600cc riders. Most with Free had are a support from have been riding at top level for the free had when they heard years. For a jumbr rider to take an and beat experienced men. They knew what I had been

at the tender age of seven. A Motor Cycle News made year later, he was riding in ju-Toscland their 1997 Young Rid-nior trials competitions and his I had come to a dead end. I was Just 20 minutes before, Corrier of the Year. It was an hon- ability was soon apparent. our they created specifically to though riding against boys two acknowledge his remarkable years older, he was area chamsuccess. Andy Ibbot, the week- pion in the East Midlands, ly paper's race reporter and a South-East and North-West.

Aged 12, he switched to think you would have to go back motocross and finished sixth in past Barry Sheene, perhaps' his first season, picking up the best newcomer award. But he "retired" the following year to a little raw, but he is already concentrate on road racing. "I had done trials and motocross to get used to the balance of a bike, but it was always road rac-

In his first full season on a 125cc, Toseland started with a couple of fourths, then started other stepping stone in his in-finishing second. "One evening, evitable progress towards lidly calculated that I had to win the last 16 races to win the championship. I never thought master make of all this? Tose- it was actually possible." But that is what he did.

The following year was a disship, his Cagiva just was not good enough to challenge the Aprilias in the Superteen Championship. "The bike was seizing up



I had beaten the year before was washed up at 14.

Out of the blue, he got a about £100, that was quite a phone call from leading rider shock." Mick Corrigan. He had a bike that he wanted to race in the land interested in testing it? Do one, when he was second. fish like water?

His first taste of the bike was not just a feeling. He was clocking 54-second laps on a standard he sternly told Toseland. "You 500cc. The lap record for a are just running it in," Corrig-600cc, which is considerably an manned a stopwatch, and befaster, was 50.4sec the pits team were astonished.

The first race was at Brands Hatch, but because he was just 15. Toseland was shunted into the newcomers' class. In practice, however, he was five seconds faster than anyone else. Corrigan asked the organisers to issue a national licence so his protégé could ride in the na- He let Toseland ride in a nontional class. "No way," he was championship race at Cadwell

year before had gone. It seemed told. But Corrigan persisted. ready to retire, because the lad gan got his way. He told me: "You're riding in the national third in the championship and I class, and the prize-money goes was 11th." Toseland felt he was up from £300 to £600." As the most I had won before was

Toseland won by 5.5sec. He went on to win the series, Honda CB500 Cup. Was Tose- finishing first in all his races but Then fortune smiled on him

again. Corrigan broke his colat Mallory Park. "When I lar-bone and needed someone jumped on it felt good." It was to test his new 600cc bike. "Don't take it over 8,000 revs," came suspicious when he realised that Toseland was only a few seconds off the lap record. "You can't do that at 8.000 revs." Corrigan said accusingly. "It just kept getting quicker and quicker," says Toseland

disarmingly. Corrigan realised that he was watching a special talent.

Park, where the youngster was markably level-headed about it second. He followed this with all, displaying a maturity way bea second at Spetterton, "but I had flu", says Toseland, explaining his poor performance.

Toseland, aged just 16, made his debut in the European Supersport 600cc series at Brands Hatch last year. In the first practice, he was 31st out of 36. Was the competition at last too fierce for the youngster? Former journalist Chris Herring, now working for Castrol Honda, takes up the story. "He couldn't put in a fast lap until he followed British champion Paul Brown. He needs competition to go fast."

From eighth on the grid. Toseland eventually finished third against Europe's best. He won five of the British rounds, and pundits agree that he would have won the series if he had taken part in the first three rounds. He also tied up the CB 500 class with three

races to go. Suddenly, he was the rider every team wanted. He had offers from every major British

yond his tender years. "I've bought some new clothes, and my mum has put up the price of my board," he says when asked how the Honda deal had affected him.

He is even learning to play golf. During the past two months. he has been to Australia, Italy and Malaysia, and the World Supersport series, which opens at Donington on 13 April, includes rounds in Austria, Brazil and San Marino. Exciting stuff for a teenager, whose previous foreign travel was limited to a Spanish holiday. 🕠

Early reports say that Toseland is going to surprise a few of the old faces. In one practice session, he was 0.2sec slower than Honda's European champion, Michael Paquay. A world champion? It is too early to say. But Herring recalls being called over by TV presenter and racing enthusiast Andy Kershaw who said excitedly "come and see this. You are watching history in the team and several world champi- making." He was watching onship outfits. But Toseland is re- James Toseland.

Weather gods hold sway in our charge of the light brigade

LEG SIX from Brazil to Florida was a very bad one for us. I was more disappointed with our fifth place than I was with seventh at the end of the second leg into Fremantle. Then we could address the problems that needed fixing. This time we were just plain outgunned. Once the Whitbread Round the World fleet started reaching in those fresh breezes north of the Equator we were mown down.

Admittedly, our routing choice was not as good as that of leg winner Lawrie Smith. Silk Cut's positioning was a dream and they were perfectly placed to take the best advantage of the weather all the way. But I was still reasonably happy with the choices we made. However, the weather was against us. We sailed the leg in five days less than would have been ideal for us because there was lot more breeze than is ideal for us.

If we had been able to foresee the heavier conditions in Stream and then all kinds of our planning that would have been enough to swing the choice away from our lighter, crack in our saest here in Fort narrower boat, to the heavier. Lauderdale and we know beamier one we left behind in that, once again, many of our Southampton last September, rivals are worning about mast

possible for us to win. But to to fit a new mast if the old one do that Paul Cayard's EF is not irreparably damaged? Language would have to fall. Are competitors again being the three remaining legs.

race is for second place. That ing finger pointed at them if is not being defeatist, it is fac-something were to go wrong. ing up to reality. At least we know that of the three pre-race for the first 750 miles of favourites we are the only what is no more than an exone in the top three. On the tended Fastnet Race, then the last leg we put more points be- last 120 up Chesapeake Bay tween us and Chessie Racing | could be very good for us. and we are in a strong position to retrieve second overall from Swedish Match.

perate effort to catch Cayard, and we are going to keep a very close eye on Swedish Match. We are also going to keep a close eye on. We are in good shape as far what Chessie is doing as as sail selection is concerned, they will be on fire for the and I am back in training next leg to their home port now that the collar-hone is of Baltimore, which starts on mended. There is still plen-19 April. Having won the leg try to fight for.



GRANT DALTON

The skipper of Merit Cup looks to the skies for a Whitbread boost into Baltimore

into Auckland we know exactly what that is all about. And we hope that, for once, the weather gods will at iast smile on us, giving us the moderate running conditions in which we excel. It is just as likely that there will be a blustery north-easterly to whip up the north-flowing Gaif maybem could break loose.

We are having to repair a So, where does that leave fatigue. The big question is us? Mathematically, it is still why Cayard is being allowed down badly on at least two of allowed to circumvent the rules? It seems the race office Realistically, for us the is scared of having an accus-

But if we can stay in touch

It is also good to hear that Volvo will be making an announcement in Baltimore We are not going to about the 2001 round the change our style, we are not world race. They have been going to take flyers in a des- pretty quiet so far, just evalnating everything. It is time they made their presence felt.

And that goes for us, too, We shall have the same crew.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

it's hard to say what's going through your mind when you hit the ground and you're sliding on he runway. The plane was like a roller-coaster. David O'Leary, Leeds' assistant menager, after the football teams plane crash landed. He brings a new dimension to the game. Andre Agassi, on tennis's titchy world No 1, the 5ft 9in Marcelo Rios.

Winning a Grand Slam is easy for girls, Rios, slamless, bids for popularity with the women's tour.

I'm womied about this word technique that flies around. Nick Knight, England cricketer after hitting 122 in a one day international.

Playing rugby at Five Nations cace is not the way to compete at the very top level Lawrence Dallaglio, England captain

Weekend fixture guide TODAY Football 3 0 unless stated FA UMBRO TROPHY SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG-Dover (1) v Cheltenham (2)

Dover (1) v Cheitenhant (2)

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisiom: Aylesbury v Duhvinch; Besingstota v Gravesand & Northfleet; Bishop's Surtior of v St Albans (or Ware FC); Boreham Wood v Sutton Uri, Bramley v Chesham; Carehatin v Emiled; Harrow Borough v Purfleat; Hendon v Dagerham & Redbridge; Hitchin v Haybridge; Kingstorian v Yeacting; Wellon & Herrhams v Oxford City, First Divisious & Berthamsted v Chertesy; Graya v Hampton; Leatherhead v Chertesy; Staines v Berton Rovers; Treme v Whyteleale; Warnbey v Abrigdon fown; Woloingham v Usbridge; Worthing v Leyton Pennant. Second Division; Sedicad Jown v Whitham; Barding v Hongerford; Bedicad Jown v Whitham; Bradend v Tibury; Canvey Island v Martion; Chelfont St Pater v Brainses; Cheshart v Lighton; Metropolitan Polica v Honstern; Meadescre v Egiam; Windsor & Ebon v Northwood; Wirenhoe v Egiam; Tithid Division; Contribian Casuste v Epsom & Enchey; Ford v Ting; Harlow v Lawas; Hemel Hampstead v Clapton; Heritord v Aurey; Kingsbury v Cambertey; Town; Southall v Homehurch. FYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Ayles-

Avery, Mugaci y

Southall v Homchruch.

UNBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Alprincham v Spernymoor; Barnber Bridge v

Raddiffe Borough; Barnber v

Firetan Town; Gainsborough v Blyth Sparpars; Gaiseley v Winsford Utd; Lancaster

v Frickley; Leigh FMI v Hyde Utd; Mainle

v Boston Utd (H.S) First Division: Buxton

v Forton; Eastwood Town v Stocksbridge

pS; Gretna v Congleton; Lincoln Utd v

Netherfield; Mallock v Farsley, Trafford v

Netherfield; Mallock v Farsley, Trafford v

Reget Harwood: Whatby v Witton; Whatey

Bay v Betp; Workington v Harrogete Town;

Worksop v Droylesden.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Olivision

Worksop v Droylesden.
OR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division (not on coupons): Goucester City v Burton Abion: Stitingbourns v Helesowen Jown, Tamworth, v Forest Green; Worces.

ter v Merthyr Tydfil. Midland Division: Bil-ston v Reddfich; Bislenali v Bedworth; Brackley v Skourbridge; Illeston v Rading Cab Warwick, Moor Green v Sutton Cold-field; Raumds v Evestram Und; Stafford Rangers v Hindskey Und; VS Rugby v Shap-shed Dynamo; Wisbach v Paget Rangers, Southern Division: Erith & Bewedere v Bashley, Fateham v Trowbridge; Hewant v Clevedon; Mangate v Waterhoville; New-port (low) v Grancester; Waston super-Mare v Baldock; Wermouth v Cinderlord; Witney v Tonbridge; Yate v Fister.

v Tonbridge; Yets v Fisher.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Beckenham v Stade Green;
Chattem v Thamesmead; Cray Wanderers
v Entr Town; Crockenhal v Deal; Folkestone
Invicts v Sheppey; Greenwich Borough v
Herne Bay; Lindewood v Tunbridge Welst;
Swariley Funess v Hythe Did; VCD Arthelio
v Canterbury.
UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First
Tubriston: Animale! v Rinomer; Burgless Hill

Division: Anuncie v Ringmer; Burges Hill
v Satsay; Eastbourne Town v Rednit; Halstran v Peachtave & Felscombe; Honelarn
YACA v Portfield; Langney Sports v Lattiel samport, Mile Colk v Satistean; Pagham
V Shorelarn; Whitehank v Chichester;
Wick v Hassocks.

Wick v Hassocis.

UHLSPORT United Countles League Premier Division: Buckingham v Potton. Cogenhoe v St Neots; Eynebury v Spating; Ford Sports v Weingborough; Kempston v Holbeach; Long Buckby v Boston Town; Mirriese Blackston v Wootton; Northampton Spence v Bourne; Stottold v Stamford; Yavley v Desborough. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Sniciport v Caine; Chippenham v
Cherdt, Keymsham v Bridgmeter; Melksham
v Emore; Torrington v Odd Down; Wastbury
v Paulton: Taunton v Bridgmeter; Melskham
v Emore; Torrington v Odd Down; Wastbury
v Paulton: Taunton v Bridgmeter; Melskham
v Permier Division: Bridg v Armold, Curron
Ashbor v Caselt Albon, Eodeshil v Pickenring; Glassfroughton Welfarey v Armthorpe
Welfare; Hasten v Theodes; v Armthorpe
Welfare; Hasten v Theodes; v Armthorpe
Welfare; Classet Town v Selby,
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division: Burscough v Rossendale;
Chiberge v Atherton Collieries; Hastingden
v St Helens; Holker Old Boys v Chaddetor; Methe Road v Electpoot Rovers; Mess-

ley v Darwen; Newcastle Town v Rams-bottom; Prescot Cables v Americo, LP; Sel-tord v Warrington, League Cup semi-final second leg: Vauxhall GM (0) v Glossop (1).

tord v Warmigton Lasgue Cutp semi-mail second legi Vauchal GM (i) v Glossop (i) JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v Newbury, Aerostructures v Gosport Borough; BAT Sports v Withshurch; Bemerion Heath Harl v Thatcham: Cowes Viss v Brockenhurst; Eastleigh v Dowmon; Portsmouth RN v Romsey; Winborne v Andovec: JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Clacton v Bury Town; Pakenham v Heath of Clacton v Bury Town; Pakenham v Heath of Clacton v Bury Town; Pakenham v Heath of Clacton v Bury Town; Pakenham v Tiptree; Sudbury Wardengs v Biss; Warboys v Fafastowe Port & Town; Walton v Newmarket; Winborn v Borowich; Kings Norton v Burwet; Kryporsley Victoria v Straford; Oldbury v Bridgmorth; Rocester v Boldmere St Michaels; Rushall Olympic v Strapenhal; Smithal v Pelsal Villa; Welshall v Sandwei Borough, ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN

Sitaparintii, Strimal v Pelisali Villari, Weel Midlands Police v Wachesfield; Willerhall v
Sandweit Borough.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Bedington Temers v South Stields; Crook v Seaham Red
Star; Dunston Pederation v Striaton; Guisborough v Consett; Jamow Roofing v
Durham, Morpeth v RTM Nawcasste; Muton v Stockton; Perrith v Northallerton; Tow
Law Town v Essington
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE; Cachracudid v Cove Rangers;
Deverormale v Rothes; Keath v Naim County, Lossiemouth v Buckle Tristic, Peterhead
v Bora Rangera.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Conwy (230); Bangor City v Newtown (20); Berry Town v Cemeas Bey (230); Caansarion
Town v Haverlordwest (230); Cambran v
Porthmadog (20); Ebbw Nets v Rhy; (230);
Inter Cable Tei Cardit v Fint Town (20);
Weistpool v Rheynder Town (230).

BASS IRISH CUP Semi-finat: Gemoran
v Linfield (110) (at Windson Parit, Belless).

HARP LAGER National League of Ireland MARP LAGER National League of Ireland Premier Division: Sign Rovers v St Patricks

FAI HARP LAGER CUP Semi-finals: Athlone Town v Cork City (7:30); Firm Harps v Shelbourne (7:35)

Cricket THIRD ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL: St. Vincent West Indies v England (2.35). Rugby Union 3.0 unless stated

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPI England v Ireland (2.0) (at Twickenham) Allied Dunbar Premiership Two: Fylde v Moseley.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: CIiey v Harrogale: Rugby v Lydney. Two North: Birminghem/Solinuli v Aspatne: Kendal v Walsali; Manchesaer v Sheffield; Preston Grasshoppers v Sandal, Sedgley Park v Nuneaton; Stourbridge v Lichfield; Warnington Park v Hincidex; Two South: Bridgwäter v Matropolitan Police; Camberley v Barking; Clitton v Prymouth; Havani v Tabard; North Waisham v Henley; Rectrum v Eshec.

V ESIEC
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division (2.30): Aberliery v Aberevon: Rurnney v Blackwood
TENNENTS VELVET CUP Quarternais: Hawach v Boroughmur, Kelso v Melrose: Strang County v Curne; Watsoniens
v Glasgow Hanks.
TENNESTE MEURIT POWE Quarter

TENNESTE MEURIT POWE Quarter

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL Quarter finals: Helensburgh v Carnoushe HSFP; Morgan Acad FP v Ross High; Pertishre v Cambuslang; Strathmore v Carna TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD Querter-finalis: Berwick v Stewarts Metville FF, Curmock v Ayr, Selkirk v Hutchesons' Abystan, Stewartry v Alica. TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP Division 3B:

Hockey VINTAGE CUP Final: Eastcole v St Albans INTER-LEACUE Play-offs: Robinsons v Eastcote (120): Nonon v Oxford Hawks (20).

CLUB MATCHES: London Weish v New-

VETERANS CUP Final; Boumville v Indi-an Gymkhane (4.0) (all at Milton Keynes National Stadium). NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Divisi Hounslow v Beeston (430). WOMEN'S WEST Premier: Chellenham v Leominster, Colwell v St Austell, Exeter

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Hampstead 8 Westminster v Horsham: Reading v Winchmore Hill: Southampton v Mald-enhead: Tulse Hill v Dulwich; Winchester v Hendon.

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace v Vlorthing Bears (730); Derby Storm v New-castle Eagles (730); Leicester Riders v Chester Jels (730); Walford Royals v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30).

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Eastbourne v Coventry BRITISH UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP Semi-final (70) (at Berwick) CHALLENGE: Stoke v Hull (730)

Other sports BOWLS: EBA National Championship (N SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavil-5QUASH: British Open (National Indoor

TENNIS: Davis Cup Euro/Aincan zone group one second round: Britian v Ukraine TOMORROW Football

Arena, Birmingham).

FA UMBRO TROPHY SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG Southport (1) v Slough (0) (3.0) _____ DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Division: Torrington v Melksham

Cricket Rugby League

JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Leeds v Varrington (30), London v Halfax (30); Saf-tod v St. Helenis (30); Sheffield v Hull (315); Wigan v Castletord (715). FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone v Leigh (330). Hunslet v Whitehaven (330); Swin-ton v Hull Kingston Rovers (30); Wakefield v Rochdale (330); Widnes v Dewsbury.

Rugby Union FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP Wales v France (3.0) (at Wenthier)
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE Two
South: Weston super-Mare v Chellenham

Hockey INTER LEAGUE Play-offs: Peterborough Town v Robinsons (10.0): Harborne v Nor-ton (12.0). EHA TROPHY Final: West Herts v Bow-

EHA CUP Final: Beeston v Cannock (all at Milton Keynes National Stadium). WOMEN'S EHA CUP Quarter-finals: Cirton Scottish Life v Trojans (10); Don-caster v Slough (1030), Hightown v Sutton Coldfield (120); Loughborough Students v 31d-sep. 17 20) Aldridge (2.30). WOMEN'S EHA PLATE Quarter-finals

wouldn't eth Plats duanter-maje: Cambridge City v Malcidiachead, Deosade Rambbars v Lansdown; North Staths v Dul-witch, Reading v Havartt. CHELMSFORD CENTENARY CELE-BRATIONS: Chelmsford Ladies v St Albars (10); Chelmsford v Presidents XI (230).

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets Crystal Palace (40); Sheffield Sherks of Greater London Leopards (20); London Tow-ers v Bernengham Bullets (20). PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Glasgow v New castle (630), Newport v Peterborough (230 Other sports BOWLS: Scottleh Teem Championstop (inst

Speedway

(Dundee): MOTOR RACING: Autosport British Formula Three Champoriship third round (Salerstone): SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavil SOLIASH: British Open (National Indoor Are TENNIS: Davis Cup Euro/Alincan zone

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of hours community service Belgian intemational footballer Gilles De Bilde received for two. violent incidents, including one on the pitch which broke the eye-socket of an Eendracht Aalst player. The player was also given a nine-month suspended sentence. His community service will be spent teaching football to disadvantaged youngsters.

Richard Cockerill's public image of an uppity hooker is one he relishes. Chris Hewett met

the non-stop talker

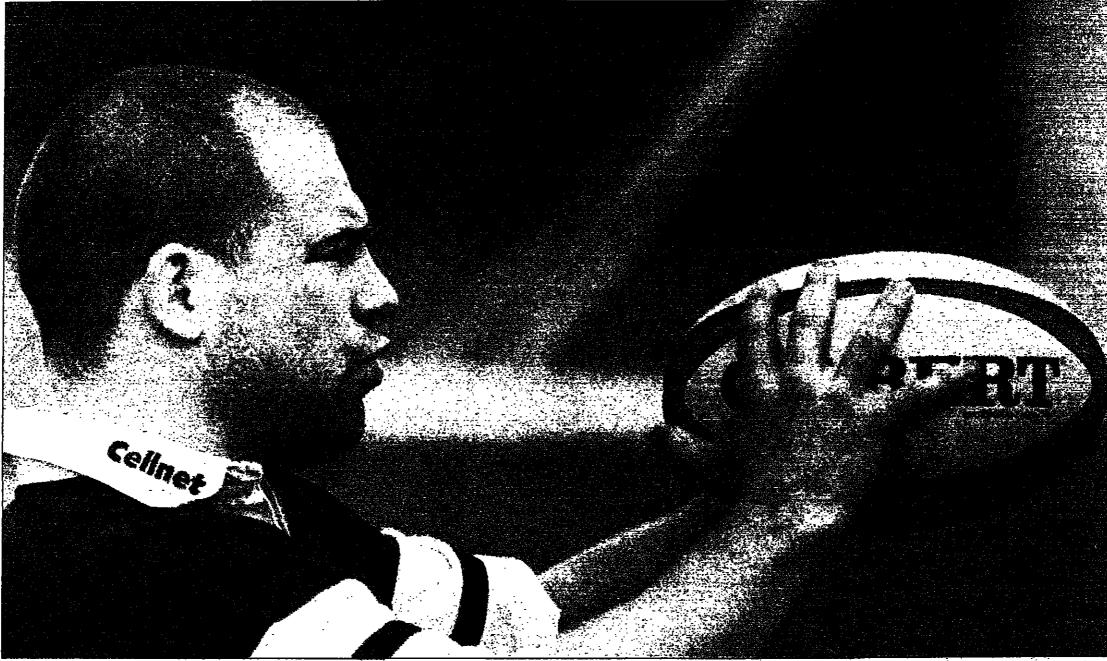
ONLY a mother could love him. If, in the considered opinion of one of his rival hookers, Richard Cockerill is blessed with "a face you never get tired of punching", he is also the self-appointed embodiment of the buildog spirit, an enthusiastic practitioner of rugby's black arts and the proud architect of the most calculated act of sporting wind-upmanship since Douglas Jardine employed bodyline as a fail-safe means of bursting every blood vessel in Australia. In other words, he gets under your skin and stays there.

And does this reputation as a professional pain worry the man who, last November, famously trespassed on the All Blacks haka at Old Trafford and lived to dine out on his story? Does it beck. "It's just me being me, isn't it?" he says, an impudent grin creasing its way across the features that launched a thousand dust-ups.

"It takes all different sorts to make a world and while I'm quite happy to admit that I occasionally push things a bit far. I certainly don't sit there in the dressing-room thinking: Oh God, why did I do that?" I'm not a great one for regrets. In fact. I look at it this way: if opponents spend valuable time losing their rags with me instead it's money in the bank."

Cockerill dons the letter B when he plays for his beloved range of theory as to what the "B" might stand for. With England, he wraps himself in a No 2 shirt once worn with distinction by strong, silent types - John Pullin, say, or Peter Wheeler - Test series with Argentina. but which now, it seems, is the exclusive preserve of chippy. uppity front-row irritants with far too much to say for themselves. Put Brian Moore, Mark Regan, whose intense vocal and phys-Phil Greening and the present incumbent in the same room and you have a thoroughly has proved one of the more bolshie debating society capable Springbok.

Yet for more seasons than he would care to remember, Cock- as far as Jack was concerned. erill appeared to be talking to But Mark was elsewhere last decided they wanted more of



of concentrating on the game. Cockerill crows: I'm not a great one for regrets. If opponents spend valuable time losing their rags with me instead of concentrating on the game, it's money in the bank!

himself. Certainly, Jack Rowell summer, Phil got injured early Cockerill. Clive Woodward's Leicester and there is a wide for international recognition until as much through Hobson's Choice as anything else, he handed the most talkative Tiger of them all a flight ticket to Buenos Aires for last year's two-

"I suppose Regan's selection for the Lions opened the door, so I've got that much to thank him for," admits Cockerill. ical rivalry with the equally forthright West countryman was fit, I wasn't in with a shout

turned a deaf ear to his claims in the first Test and suddenly. my opportunity was there, staring me in the face.

"Looking back, it couldn't have worked out more positively. The Argentinians may not be the mightiest all-round force in world rugby but they scrummage better than virtually anyone, so I knew that a couple of quality performances against the likes of Grau. Mendez and Reggiardo, could only give my career a leg up.

"The Pumas hit us with all the brute strength they could entertaining private conflicts muster and the atmosphere of talking the hind legs off a of the last few seasons. "While was seriously hostile, but we he was available and Greening soaked it all up and went back for more.

As a result. England quickly pushover try. England subse-

appointment as national coach sparked an immediate bonfire of Rowell's selectorial vanities and after a strangely ill-judged punt on the immature talents of Andy Long against the Wallabies last autumn, he made the 27-year-old, dyed-in-the-wool Midlander his No 1 choice - a status heavily reinforced by the timely knee injury that al-

lowed him to miss an embar-

rassing afternoon of set-piece

torment against the French in

Recalled for the watershed match with Wales at Twickenham, Cockerill helped a muchcredibility by spearheading a

against the Scots and while the Irish threesome is sufficiently big and ugly to look after itself in this afternoon's Five Nations finale, the red rose heavy brigade are in more confident mood than at any time in the last 12 months.

"People say it was only Wales or only Scotland and Td be the first to acknowledge that the French front row is the most powerful proposition in Europe," says Cockerill. "I may not have faced them in Paris but went up against Califano and Tournaire in this season's Leicester-Toulouse matches and they are very definitely a handmaligned front row regain some ful, probably the best I've encountered.

"But you don't find any poor actually; short, stocky and very quently forced a penalty try front rows on the international awkward."

circuit - both the Welsh and the Scots have good individuals and we deserve some credit for our achievements.

Having said that, I expect the Irish to ask us some pretty tough questions at Twickenham and we'll have to be on our game to deal with them. I don't know a great deal about this bloke Corrigan, but Keith Wood was an automatic choice for the Lions last summer and played like one, too, while Paul Wallace has proved time and time again bow clever he is, not only at dealing with some of the

automatically be realised.

from a coach's point of view is

that they are so eager to learn.

This side has a healthy mental-

ity; it has a long way to go be-

more than good, but the steps we

said of Cockerill himself - as the "short, fat boy" at school, he was ordered to play loose-head prop until it became clear he would not grow enough to sustain himself in the position - and he

"It can be very demanding in the front row, especially now that the hooker is expected to give everything to give them a show?" the shove on the opposition put-in rather than attempt to a Twickenham audience seldom biggest, strongest props in the out-hook his opposite number, accused of wearing its heart on world but at taking the game to as they did years ago. I don't its wax-jacketed sleeve, Cockerill the opposing front row. I think even think about striking for an has been entirely faithful to his he's a great scrummager. opponent's ball and if we take, balls-and-all credo this season.

takes enormous pleasure in-

imposing his personality on

what is supposed to be a big

Exactly the same might be tather than pinching a crafty

"But another good Leicester boy, Neil Back, has proved that you don't have to be a giant to survive in the back row and I'd like to think I'm doing the same in my position.

"It's all passion with me: I give everything I have to give whenever I play and if that gets the crowd going, all well and good. They've paid good money to come and watch, so why not

Much to the amusement of

The catalyst with the soul of a poet

the verge of winning their first ever back-to-back Grand Slam. but for those who have followed crucial match against Wales at Wembley tomorrow, the most striking factor is the imperturbable calm and composure in the French camp.

Perhaps it has something to do with their new captain. Raphael Ibanez, the hooker from Dax who arrived as a virtual unknown at the beginning of this season's Five Nations' Championship and who appears to have been the catalyst for what is virtually a spontaneous generation of new

Before France played England in the vital opening game of the Championship in February, Ibanez had only six caps, four of which were as a replacement. But scarcely two months later, he is firmly established as the captain who will lead them into the World Cup next year. He is a fresh voice at the heart of a side traumatised by the humiliating 52-10 defeat against South Africa last November.

Reserved and softly spoken off the field. Ibanez is almost a novelty in today's international rughy: a front-row forward with a literary bent, a hooker who leads by example but who is always capable of retaining a perspective on both rugby and life. Built like a bull, but with the soul of a poet, his carry-on luggage for the trip to Waterloo contained a book of short stories by the great Spanish novelist Cervantes. Having between an art degree and a in the summer of 1995.

Virtually unknown at the start of the season, Raphael Ibanez has emerged as the week's build-up to the a natural leader, lan Borthwick met him

> career in sport. Ibanez has for years maintained a passion for the written word, going as far as consigning, in an immaculately written hand, his deepest thoughts to a series of journals.

A perfectionist on and off

the field, he regards the act of writing as a form of discipline. These days I don't have the time any more to do much Five Nations table

P W D L F A Pts France3 3 0 0 93 49 6 England ...3 2 0 1 175 94 4 Wales3 2 0 1 75 94 4 Scottand ...4 1 0 3 66 120 2 Ireland3 0 0 3 53 65 0 Today: England v Ireland (Twickenham). Tomorrow: Wales v France (Wembley).

writing," he lamented at the Gare du Nord vesterday as he breakfasted on a croissant and a cup of hot chocolate before boarding the Eurostar, "Now that rugby has become virtually a full-time occupation. I have to

put my writing on bold." The grandson of a Spanish Republican who fled Spain in the 1930s seeking refuge in the south-west corner of France. Ibanez drives a clapped-out old Citroën 2CV and claims to be totally removed from the material concerns of life. Independent of spirit, enamoured of the idea of liberty his great nassion outside rughy is flyfishing in the rivers of the Basque country and he considers hesitated, after winning his one of the great watersheds of French equivalent of A levels. his life to be a trip to Argentina

After his club Dax was defeated by Toulouse in the semifinal of that year's French Championship, Ibanez threw a few clothes into a backpack and took off. On his own from Buenos Aries to Mendoza and Tucuman he went in search of himself as much as of Argentina.

"I wanted to meet people from all levels of society, and to see for myself the damage the original Indians of Argentina." he said. "I wanted to Channel. travel alone, it was vital. When you are alone in a foreign country like that you are obliged to be open-minded and to make an effort towards other people.

"But above all, I wanted to prove to myself that despite being so messy and removed from material realities, I am capable of organising myself." Apparently this organisa-

tional capacity is now paying off as he has slipped effortlessly into the role of the natural leader of the Tricolores, something which they have lacked for several years. Captain of the French juniors who won the World Cup in Madrid in 1992, and the French Universities team which won the Students' World Cup in South Africa in 1996, he is clearly accustomed to the task. For him, this week's preparation at Clairetountaine has been based on retaining mental freshness in the players and not overtraining them.

"It is impossible not to think



free-thinking captain

about it, but we are trying to keep the idea of the Grand Slam as far as possible from our caused by colonialism and to minds," he said as the Eurostar find out what has happened to cruised through the French countryside towards the

"First of all we have a match to win against Wales, and once we have done that we can start thinking about the rewards of a Grand Slam."

The memories of the close shave at the Stade de Francewhen they almost lost to the fired-up Irish a month ago are still very much alive in the French camp, and Ibanez says his pre-match team talk will be all about lifting their commitment to produce the same sort of dedicated defensive effort that they showed against England.

"Against Ireland we were not sufficiently aggressive, we let them get the upper hand, and it was very difficult to get back into the match. We can't afford to let the happen again.

We are all aware of the historical significance of this match and if we win the Grand Slam will come as an added reward, But we have not forgotten that first of all we have a match to

Twin towers likely to host France's first twin Slam

By Chris Hewett

ENGLAND'S new breed of globally conscious go-getters may consider a Five Nations' Grand Slam to be only slightly less common than the contents of a Soho stripper's lingerie drawer, but the French still treasure it as a glittering prize their whole-hearted support. of inestimable value. Should Raphael Ibanez and his gifted colleagues dazzle their way past ning another Slam. If they mana depleted Welsh outfit at Wembley tomorrow - and if they realise only 75 per cent of their potential, they will surely win with something to spare they can anticipate the freedom of every half-decent restaurant

between Paris and Provence. Only six illustrious Tricolores - Serge Blanco, Roland Bertranne, Pierre Berbizier, Robert Paparemborde, Jean-François Imbernon and Jean-Pierre Rives - can claim to have participated in more than one Grand Chelern and for all the fizz. flair and physicality they have brought to the championship over the last 85 years, the French have never before secured backto-back Slams. It is, then, a momentous occasion for the 13 surviving contributors to last

season's full house of victories. Yet while Ibanez and company are concentrating all their thoughts on landing the immediate catch, one French visionary is keeping at least half an eye on the bigger fish looming on the horizon. Pierre Villepreux desires the Slam as intensely as any of his countrymen, but having reinvented the role of the full-back during an international career spanning the late 1960s and early 70s, he is now applying his formidable rugby brain to the reinvention of the national team

in time for next year's World Cup.

"We have two main aims tough match at an unfamiliar sta- Thomas and Marc, have made against Wales," said the assistant coach, whose resourceful partnership with Jean-Claude Skrela, a former Test colleague, appears to have persuaded even the notoriously self-destructive

sporting politicians of the French Federation that this is a they are on the verge of someback-room regime worthy of date were achieved without "The first is to see the players Abdel Benazzi, Olivier Merie, take their place in history by win-Emile N'tamack, Marc Dal Maso and, for the most part. Philipoe -age that, the second aim - a-Benetton, and any side suffigrowth in confidence as we ciently rich in resources to marapproach the World Cup - will ginalise a quintet of that quality has little to be modest about. "We came into this tourna-Philippe Bernat-Salles, the

ment with a young team and a greying Pan wing whose legs new captain and the good thing appear to be approximately two decades younger than the rest of him, has slammed the door shut on N tamack with a rush of sublime finishing that has fore people can call it anything yielded him a try a match. Olivier Brouzet and Fabien Pelous have have taken are all positive. A formed a thoroughly modern great prize awaits these players second-row partnership while and while they expect a very the Lievremont brothers,

dium. there is a great sense of such strides in the back row that anticipation amongst them." Benetton has been relegated on Villepreux is too nimble in to the bench and the great thought and deed to be fooled Benazzi forced out of the squad into a premature claim of altogether. Meanwhile, Ibanez potential greatness for his side, has brought his invigorating but both he and Skrela believe brand of man management to bear so effectively at hooker that thing special. The three wins to Dal Maso, who positively drips

world class, is down among the

For the Welsh, this season's finale is a dainting obstacle made all the more formidable by Allan Bateman's withdrawal. The universally respected Lions centre had been excused training on compassionate grounds because his six-year-old daughter, Naomi, was suffering from a serious eye complaint. She was still undergoing treatment at Kingston General Hospital in Surrey yesterday and, as a result, Bateman declared himself

unavailable. "Our thoughts are with Alian; while he will be a great loss to the team, we sympathise with his feet ings and totally understand his decision to remain with his daughter," said the Welsh coach, Kevin Bowring, who promptly called up Neil Boobyer of Llanelli, for his tournament debut. The reshuffle means Wales will field their third different midfield partnership in

four Five Nations outings. Boobyer is polocy's novice either in attack or defence. But he is not a Bateman - who is at the moment? - and with the Welsh tight forwards still on the skinny side of lightweight, it is difficult to imagine how they can hope to hold Christian Califano and Franck Tournaire at the set piece and by extension. Thomas Castaignetic acoustice half. Put your money on the twin towers to host the fast two Slam in French history

WALES V FRANCE

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M ROODAGA	Llanelīi	13	C Lamaison	
L Davies	Cardiff	12	S Glas:	· Bau
G I nomas	Cardill	н	X Garbaiosa	Tou
ry jenkins	Pontvocal	10	T Castaionàda	
v coalea	Cardill, capt	9	P Carbonnesu	
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G Jenkins	Swansea	2	R Ibanez	
D Young	Cardiff	3	F Tournains	
M Voyle	l. laneth	4	O Brouzet Bè	alaa Daad
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R Appleyard	Swansaa	7	F Pelous	10U
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			T Lievremont	Perpi
Replacements: 16 D pridd); 17 B Hayward P John (Pontypridd); 19 Vale); 20 S Roy (Pontyp	(Ebw Vale): (8		Replacements: 16 F miers); 17 D Aucago Aue (Castres); 19 P Be	Gaithe ((e (Pau); it enection (A
			20 T Clerte Court	A C P

Kick-off: 3.0, tomorrow (BBC1)

relieved **England**

Rugby Union

By David Llewellyn

England A ireland A

Tennis it was not, despite the scoreline, but it was a precious win for England, their only one of what has been a miserable season for the second-string squad.

They outscored Ireland A by six tries to three at a chilly Richmond, but there was not quite that much of a gulf between the two teams. Up front there was little to choose early on, only as the game wore on did the Irish hegin to run out of steam.

Out wide they had, perhaps, the edge. The Richmond wing Spencer Brown was particularly impressive, not only because of his well taken try, but also because of his awareness around the field.

England raced into a 15-point lead before the Irish had got their bearings. Brown hacking on a Josh Lewsey chip, then beating full-back Stan McDowell to the touchdown. Three minutes later the Saracens No 8 Ben Sturnham had rumbled through. Stimpson converted that to add to his earlier penalty.

But Ireland managed a rapid one-two as well, with tries from their dangerous centre Mervyn Murphy and John McWeeney in the space of four minutes.

The try of the match, and the one which probably settled the game, came midway through the second half when Peter Mensah intercepted Kieren Dawson's. pass and raced 55 yards to the line. That was followed by all-Richmond affair when Craig Gillies finished off some dazzling work by Brown and Dominic Chapman, Lewsey got in on the act as well, but Ireland always remained in touch, Barry Everitt scoring their third try and Niall Woods ending with 15

England Under-21s' hopes of pulling off a Grand Slam were dashed by a superior ireland pack in the curtain-raiser to the A international. Three penalties by Ireland's outside-half Ronan Ogara were just good enough to give them a 9-7 victory.

England A: Nies Brown, Sturthain, Fider, Me zah, Gilles, Lowsey: Conversions Stingson, Penaltise Stripson 2, Ireland A: Tries Murth McWeeteys, Everiti; Conversions Woods: Penalties Woods 3.

Permities Woods 3.

ENGLAND A: 7 Stimpson (Newcastiel; S Brown (Hchmond); P Mensan (Harlaquins), S Ravenacroft (Scracers), D Chispman (Richmond); J Leausey (Pristo), P Richards (Loudon insh.), D Barmes (Newcastiel, P Greening (Goucaster), J Mailest (Bart), P Ridier (Gouras-lor), C Gillien (Richmond), R Harlan (Richmond), R Harlan (Seracers), R Harlan (Richmond), Replacementa: M Cornwell (Goucester) for Gilles, 55; W Green (Waspe) for Alletti. 65; A Blennett (Sarzoers) for Jeanny, 65; A Richmond, Replacementary for Jeanny, 65; A Richmond, C Stripson, 76; Q Chuter (Barzoers) for Greening, 77; M Alles (Northampton) for leating, 78.

Hunton, 78
IRELAND Ar S. McDoneell (Bellymeras); J. McWeeney (St. Mary's Coff), M. Mitaphry, P. Duigman (Galveglans), N. Woods (London Istri); B. Everiti, S. Michor (Garryonen; J. Pitzpatrick (London Iristi); B. Jacksman (Contiert), G. Walsh (Garryonen); G. Fucher (London Irist); G. Walsh (Garryonen); G. Fucher (London Irist); Raylaceurentis; N. Deswon (London Irist); Raylaceurentis; N. MicDonnott (Charryone); D. Torotty (Garryonen) for Northeresy, 70; S. P. Chely (Garryonen) for Northeresy, 70; S.

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Tells for Rusedski rolls over Rybalko

Tennis

By John Roberts Newcastle

BY coincidence, the Newcastle Arena is painted in the Wimbledon colours, purple and green, a timely reminder of David Lloyd's ambition to captain future David Cup triumphs against the best in the world on the All England Club's lawns.

Greg Rusedski responded to the symbolism with an emphatic win in the opening rubber of Britain's Davis Cup tie against Ukraine yesterday, a spur towards a place in the qualifying round for the World Group next September. Lloyd had so little to do in terms of motivation that, given a mobile phone, he would probably have closed a couple of business

deals from his chair in the

court.

Rusedski wore down Andrei Rybaiko, the Ukraine No 2, with the power of his serve, conceding only 12 points in the process, four of those with double-faults. He secured the victory, 6-4, 6-0, 6-4, after 96 minutes, nine and a half of which were expended on the opening game.

Having dropped 11 games against Rybalko when defeating him in three sets in the deciding rubber on a slow clay court in Kiev last July, the British No 1 appeared slightly nervous at the start vesterday, as if conscious that he was expected to blow away an opponent ranked 525 in the world on the pacy

As Rusedski tried to whittle away at his opponent's confidence, Rybalko saved five break points and fought through seven dences, succeeding in holding on his third game point.

I think he knew he was in for some long games on his

tering suggestions that he was edgy. "I felt relaxed and loose, and I thought I dealt with the job pretty well. I didn't really think about it [the difference in rankings]. I always treat my opponents with respect, whether I'm playing Sampras or Andrei Rybalko, ranked

Rybalko endeavoured to serve and volley whenever possible, but Rusedski's serve was rarely troubled. He was credited with 20 aces and only once was taken to deuce, in the eighth game of the first set.

In the second set, which was completed in 23 minutes, Rusedski conceded only one point on serve, and after breaking for 2-1 in the third set he dictated the points with such assurance that he was able to be generous when the opportunity presented itself with Rvbalko serving at 2-4, 30-40. Rusedski, who already had

had two break points for 5-2, passed Rybalko with a forehand return, but immediately supported his opponent's claim that his serve had touched the net, indicating to the umpire that the point should be replayed. Rybalko won the game, delaying the inevitable, Rusedski delivering an ace down the centre on the concluding point.

"I don't have to say much with Greg playing like that," Lloyd said. I just keep my mouth shut and let him get on with it." Rusedski smiled. "I like it when he sits there quietly," he said. "It's a good sign. It means we're doing well." In other ties yesterday, By-

ron Black blunted Patrick Rafter's powerful serve to put Zimbabwe level with Australia after the opening two singles rubbers of their World Group first round in Mildura.

Black, ranked 81st in the world, fought back from losing serve," Rusedski said, coun- the opening set to surprise the 5-7, 7-5 in the opening singles. when the day's play ended pre- his Davis Cup debut.



Greg Rusedksi serves on his way to victory in Newcastle yesterday Photograph: Allsport

US Open champion, who has had a virus, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 in 2 hours 26 minutes.

His victory kept Zimbabwe in the tie after his younger brother Wayne lost a 3hr 18min struggle to Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-4,

Italy held a 1-0 lead over india in their first-round tie in Genoa as rain curbed Mahesh Bhupathi's efforts of levelling the score. India's No 1 player was leading Davis Cup debutant Davide Sanguinetti 6-2, 6-2, 2-3

maturely in this Italian port city. Play should continue today. Andrea Gaudenzi gave Italy the lead, overcoming a third-set

lapse on his way to a 6-0, 6-2. 1-6, 6-2 victory against Prahland Srinath, who was also making

nursuit of perfection

Golf By Andy Fairell

in New Orleans

JOSE MARIA OLAZABAL, runner-up in the Freeport-Mc-Dermott Classic prior to winning the US Masters in 1994, took advantage of some friendly early morning conditions at English Turn to move to five under par with an outward half of 31.

This was a swift reversal of form and fortune for the 32year-old Spaniard who was none too bappy with his first-round 72, level.par, on Thursday.

"Terrible," he said. "There Dubai Classic earlier in the are no other words to explain year seemed to have evaporatit. I was terrible."

While Olazabal brought a new calmer attitude to his game when he returned after 18 months away with his foot injuries, his perfectionist tenwhile before he would have snat out the words with a venom of self-disgust, this time it was just an honest description of his performance:

Since arriving in America for the Players' Championship the form that took him on a run of third, second and first in the

ed. But it duly returned yesterday as he had birdies on five of the first six holes.

A pitch to two feet at the first was the perfect start and Olazabal followed up by chipping to dencies are undimmed. But a foot at the par-five second. After a par at the third, putts of six, 20 and 20 feet brought three more birdies at the next three holes. With the overnight leader,

Glen Day, who had yet to begin his second round, at eight under, a fast start was exactly what was needed.

Ian Woosnam, who went English Turn in 1991, went out in level par but picked up two birdies after the turn to move to four under

After playing only 12 holes last week before withdrawing with a back injury. Woosnam should complete his goal of playing four rounds before the Masters.

A double-bogey six at his fifth hole was a sethack for year-old Irishman in his rookie season on the US Tour. Coughlan was four under be-

fore dropping a couple of shots one better than Olazabal at late in his first round, but has made four cuts in his six tournaments to date.

"Playing these courses for the first time means I am probably a shot a round behind everyone else, and two shots behind the really good players. Coughlan said.

At seven over going into the back nine, Chip Beck, a former Ryder Cup player and winner here in 1992, was heading for his Richard Coughlan, the 23- 33rd consecutive missed cut, a run with which he would tie Ian Baker-Finch's record for the US

Big incentive for Broncos

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

ON THE weekend that begins the third season of Super League, contrasting fortunes in last week's Challenge Cup semifinals will be a major factor.

No side has more to prove than the London Broncos, so disappointing in their deteat by Wigan, "If people want to write us off after that, then they're welcome," said their prop, Mark Carroll, "But this is a new competition now and we'll do our talking on the pitch."

Nobody understands the new competition, with its emphasis on making the top five and going forward to the playoffs, better than Carroll, who has played in the last three Australian Grand Finals.

"It's the best system for sure and it will really catch the imagination." he said.

London will make changes for their game against Halifax tomorrow, with Tulsen Tollett likely to move to scrum-half and the Cup-tied Luke Goodwin coming in at stand-off, with Butch Fatnowna moving to full-back. The contest at The Stoop will be intensified by Halifax's conviction that they "was robbed" there in the Cup five weeks ago.

The other semi-final losers. Salford, have a demanding opener at home to St Helens. The Salford coach, Andy Gregory, has been searching for a new forward to add fluency to

to be facing the injured Keiren Cunningham, Apollo Perelini and Vila Matautia. The 18year-old John Hamilton makes his debut at booker in place of Cunningham.

There will be a contrast in moods at Sheffield, where the Wembley-bound Eagles host a Hull side whose preparation for their Super League debut cannot have been helped by last week's uncertainties over who, if anyone, was going to run the club.

Hull's new captain, Alan Hunte, insists that the players will concentrate on their jobs. but opposition as confident as Sheffield will be a searching test of their ability to compete at this level. They will be without their Cook Islands prop. Jason Temu. suspended for two matches for a high tackle.

Wigan, back to their awesome best against the Broncos. will be a gauge of how much Castleford have improved under Stuart Raper. Cas have been trying to duplicate the preparation that saw them record Cup victories over Leeds and Bradford and they have no shortage of players who know their way around Central Park.

The ex-Wigan players Mike Ford. Richard Russell, Barrie-Jon Mather, Danny Ellison and Gael Tallee are all in their 18-man squad. The current Wigan team is ominously at full strength.

lestyn Harris will captain Leeds against Warrington, the club that sold him exactly a year ago. The prop forward and his side's work up the middle Enunerdale actor. Adam Fogerty. and will perhaps be relieved not could be in Warrington's line-up.

No room for room-trashers

Ice hockey

THE men's ice hockey team will not go with the rest of the United States' Winter Olympic athletes to the traditional White House reception later this month because of the trashing of some players' rooms in Nagano.

"We do not think it appropriate that the hockey team be invited to the White House because it would detract from the Bill Hybl, said on Thursday.

attend a White House reception on 28 April, Hybl and the USOC executive director. Dick Schultz. would not rule out further action against the ice hockey team, "We do not consider the hockey incident closed," Hybl said.

Some USOC members are pushing for a ban on the ice hockey players from further Olympic season is over," Schultz said.

competition. "I wouldn't predict what else there would be but I don't think you're going to see much action until maybe after the NHL[National Hockey League] The USOC turned the case

over to Hybl and Schultz in a conference call two weeks ago. "USA Hockey has been in-

volved in our discussions so this should be a surprise to no one." Hybl said. The announcement came as

USOC members gathered for a weekend meeting, their first since the Winter Olympics. The subject is certain to be a focus of attention at the meeting.

For the first time, the U.S. ice hockey team included members truly great achievements which of the NHL. The team's failure occurred by various athletes in to win a medal was a disap-Nagano," the United States pointment and the room trash-Olympic Committee president, ing following the US last defeat. to the Czech Republic, was a The US Olympic team is to major embarrassment to US Olympic officials.

The USOC has been especially upset that the players involved have not identified themselves. "Our goal is for the two or three players involved to step up and acknowledge what

has happened." Hybl said, The US team captain, Chris Chelios has sent an apology and a \$3,000 (£1,800) cheque to Japanese Olympic officials for the damage his team-mates did

to their rooms. Hybl called Chelios' action "a fine gesture, but the matter is not closed."

Sporting Digest

Doohan sets pace at Suzuka

MICHAEL DOOHAN, the reigning 500cc world champion, was fastest in the first qualifying session for tomorrow's opening Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. Despite complaining that

the new regulations enforcing the use of unleaded fuel would slow down his Honda, the Australian lapped the 5.864km (3.644-mile) track in 2min 07.641sec, well inside his own 1997 circuit record of 2:07.782. Doohan; chasing his fifth.

successive 500cc title in his 10th season in grand prix racof local riders. Noriyuki Haga, ter promising tests.

a wild-card entry on a Yamaha. was closest, clocking 2:07.727.

Tadayuki Okada, who won the Indonesian Grand Prix last season, was third fastest on a Honda in 2:07.872. Most significantly, there

were three Yamahas in the top five yesterday - auguring well for the manufacturer after a season in which Honda won every race - and five Japanese riders in the top seven. Yamaha have not won the 500cc title since 1992.

Italy's Max Biaggi, moving up to the top class with Honda after winning the 250cc title for ing, was pushed hard by a pack four years in a row, was sixth af-

Basketball

Memi 93
BLOWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards 97
Themes valley 92; Derby 79 Leopards 93
ELRIOPEAN CHAUDPONSHIP Quarter-fines play-offic Partizan Beigrade 90 CSA Naccow 77; Benetion Traviso (fi) 76 Elea stanbul 68

Boxing Spencer Oliver, Barnet's European super-bantamweight champion, has been voted the best young boxer of the year by the Boxing Writers' Cub.

Cricket Werwickshirels former captain TIM Munton has suffered a setback in his planned return from a year out with a back injury. The pace bowler was torcad to miss the only three-day game on the country's South African tour because of soreness in his back. Warwicklehite were the moths agrained. shire won the match against montein University by seven

New Zealand Cricket has extended the contract of the national coach Steve Rixon to the 1999 World Cup and the following four-Test tour of England. The board also reappointed John Graham as manager until the end of the England their is also and august 1999. land tour in July and August 1999. PEPSI TRIANGULAR CUP (Ahmedshad, Ind): Australia 522 for 7 (50 overs; R T Ponting 55, M G Bevan 59; Zmbabwe 239 (495 overs; *4 D R Campbell 102, M W Goodwin 55). Australia won by 13 runs.

Football

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Europeen Cup-Winners' Cup semi-finals first leg: VIB Sudigat 2 Locomotiv Moscow 1, Vicenza 7 Crates 6, Saminoff light league First Division: Dungarnon 4 Carrick 1, Herp Lager National League of traland Premier Division: Dundak 1 Kilcorry 0, North West Counties League First Division: Hestington 18 burscough 5. Serevifix Division: Hestington 18 burscough 5. Serevifix Direct League Premier Division: Tiveron; 3 Backwell 2, Avon Insurance Combination First Division: power 1 Westingt 1.

Golf
FREEPORT-MCDERMOTT CLASSIC (Engtish Torm, New Orleans) First round (US unless stated): 64 G Day, 69 J Delang, S Resch.
67 T Armour II, D A Webring, D Walstort, N Resh.
68 T Blobe, K Toplett, S Gump, N Lancaside, R Cochren, B Henringer, J Carlet, J Gallegier, 69 B Tursy, D Hammond, J McGovern, L
Westwood (GS), M Webs, C Dennis, P Astrope,
N Coald (Japan): M Wurtz, 70 B Estes, S Ver
plank, J Galegoper, P Bestmart, G Kardt, J Rieg
plank, J Galegoper, P Bestmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, J Galegoper, P Bestmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, J Galegoper, Restmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, J Galegoper, Restmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, J Galegoper, P Bestmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, D Galegoper, P Bestmart, G Kraft, J Rieg
plank, D Bestmart, G Kraft, J Rieger

S Elvington (Aus), D Bart (Con), K Sucherland,
B Gage, K Wentworth, S Schmer, B Waddins, M Standty, P Tazararang, RN2, J Parrenk, (Swe), J Julyston, R Eeles, T Inylis, Lee Rather, L Mazil
cea, B Web, B Priend, L Porter,
TRADITION SENIORS TOURNAMENT
(Scottestele, Arizonal Laading Strat-round scores (US universitation): 68 T Warpt, 69 J M Canizanes (SO), H Invit. D Grahem (Aus), TO AL Garley, L Zerbex J Scrapers, E Dick
son, S Hobday (SA), V Farmarder (Arg.) G Mor
gan, Selected, 73 T J Lectin, (SB), 78 B Rames

(JB);

L DAYS, Nel WS III P B C Chilal (FMS) B Rames

(JB);

L DAYS, Nel WS III P B C Chilal (FMS) G In-

Hockey

INTER-LEAGUE Play-offs (Million Keymot) Poel A: Pelerborough Town 2 535000 3 Pool & Oxice hockey Alex Dampier and Sheffield Steelers. the Superleague club, vesterday part-

ed company after a successful sn-seasort association. Dampler won two championships, the Benson & Hedges Cup and three successive play-off titles after taking charge of the club in late 1992. However, the lack of success, in carticular this season with the club

NHL: Washington 4 Tamps Bay 1; Praiscleichs 3 Los Angeles (r. San Jose 3 Offawa 3; Chica-go 2 Colorado 1

Ice skating
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Minnaspolls. Minnaspolls men's final position (rankings of the short and long programmes in brackets):

1 A Yagurin, Rus.) (1.2, 2.7 Ethorge (U.S) 4,

1.3 E Plusherko (Rus) (2.4, 4 V Zogorodnuk (Uar) 6.3, 5 A Viacomo Keen (6.5), 6 M Yesses (U.S) (2.7); 7 S Cousna (GB) (7.6), 8 J Langdon (Can) 18, 8 9 E Pistra (Hun) 6, 90, 10 S Vicies (Hung) (7.9, 11 T Horset) (Japan, (T. 1)).

12 Zhengan Guo (Ch) (4, 22, los Dance, Original Barres: 1 A Krylona C Chysyambios (Pus) (1.2, 2 M Palacens: 6 Palacent (15), 2.2, 3 S Sourse-4 Krastz (Can) (2.4) (Laborherich Averbuch (Rus) (3.5) S Fusser-Hold (Margacio H) (3.5) S Fusser-Hold (Gen) (3.6) S General (3.6) Comparis G Mortago (18) (2.5) S Selectisch: 2.6 C Chemptes G Stortfund (18)) 2.5. Selectisch: 2.6 C

APANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzzica) First qualitying season (tap 3.64 miles): 500cc 1 M Dochan (Ass). Honda Zmm 07541 sec 102 270mh), 2 N Hage (Japan) Yomans 207372 4 K Nanta (Japan) Honda 207372 4 K Nanta (Japan) Yamara 207372 5 N Nec Lapan) Yamara 208077 250cc 1 T Ulwan (Japan) Honda 208289 70173 mph; 2 D Kao (Japan) Honda 208289 70173 mph; 2 D Kao (Japan) Honda 208271; 3 S Nekaro (Japan) Yamara 208071; 4 Picopo (In Aprila 20825; 14 J McMillams (CB) 1584-Honda 2 10700 2255cc 1 Y Rajoka (Japan) Honda 20825; 14 J McMillams (CB) 1584-Honda 2 10700 0 255cc 1 Y Fajoka (Japan) Honda 2 10700 0 5550 mph). Y Fujoka Liapani Horota 2 1770 (5563/72) 2 N Ueda (Liapan) Honda 2 17274; 3 K Saka Liapan) Acrile 2:17572 4 N Osaki Liapani Yam ha 2:17846; 6 Y Ui Liapani Yamaha 2:1614;

club to increase ground admission in an attempt to meet the new salary cap regulations. SUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Medicume

8º North Sydney 16; Sydney Cay 30 Wawarta 16. Mariy 10 Parramarta 3.4

Rugby Union

Snooker

BRITISH OPEN (Phymouth) First round: D O'Kare (NZ) bt T Staw (Eng) 5-4; W Thorne (Eng) bt P Wykes (Eng) 5-4; J Peny (Eng) bt D D Taylor (f) in 5-5; C Scanion (Eng) bt M Demonstration (Eng) 5-0; P McCallegh (Eng) bt T Jones (Eng) 5-0; P McCallegh (Eng) bt T Jones (Eng) 5-1; C MacCallegh (Eng) bt T Crap-pol (Web 5-3; G Dott (Sco) bt W Boom (Eng) 5-2; S Ali (Pals) bt I Fichertson (Eng) 5-3; M Judge (In) bt M Campbel (Sco) 5-1; S Macro-os (Eng) bt 4 Burden (Eng) 5-3.

Speedway

CHALLENGE MATCH: Postponed: Isle of Wigns v Evelor (hack waterlogged); Selle Vue v Swinden (track waterlogged); PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Postponed: Edifficient Committee Cup: Postponed: Postponed: Edifficient Committee Cup: Pos PREMIEW Laboratory and Property of the State Sauzsh

SQUESTI
BRITISH OPEN CHARPIONSHIPS (Nettonal
Indoor Arena, Birmingham) Men's, second
round S Parks (Eng) II M Chalonier (Eng) 135 % 5 % 5 % 7 % II Chancer (Eng) 1317 % D Jerson (Auch II * 10 Evens (Ma) 9 %
5 % II % 6 % 8 Women's, second round: \$
home (Eng) It 1 % Senton (Eng) 9 % 9 2 9 4
Quarter-finals \$ Fiz-Gerald (Aus) It if Geaves
(Eng) 9 % 9 % 7 % denotes qualifor
(Ger) 10 % 9 % 9 % 7

ners-Nation (Spi 7-6-7-6-4. Third counts: 1.0a-erport (US) bit R Dragomir (Rom) 1-6-8-3-7-5. M Seles (US) bit N Zvereva (Bola) 6-0-6-7-6-2. I Springe (Rom) bit M Grzybowske (POI) 6-3-6-4. Pschmidte (Kom) bit M Grzybowske (POI) 6-3-6-4.

Jayasinghe drug 'conspiracy' claim

Athletics THE Sri Lankan sprinter Susanthika Jayasinghe yesterday denied taking drugs and said a positive dope test was the result

of a conspiracy against her. "I completely deny this allegation. I would never want to win in such a manner. This is a conspiracy against me," Jayasinghe, the 200 metres silver medallist at last year's World's Champi-

unships, told a news conference. The Sri Lankan Amateur Athletics Association said on Thursday that Javasinghe had tested positive for the banned substance Nandroline during a random test carried out by the International Amateur Athlet- another less to be carried out.

ic Federation in March, but Jayasinghe said bottles containing her urine sample, which had been collected in Colombo for testing in Australia, had not been sealed by the local sports authorities. She produced a letter from the doctor who collected the sample saying the

bottle was not sealed. Jayasinghe rose to fame when she became the first Sri Lankan in 49 years to win a medal at an international championship. She clocked 22,39sec in Athens, beating favourite Merlene Ottey of

Jamaica into third place. The Sri Lankan sports authority has asked the IAAF for

Badminton
England have been offered three extra places at the European Championships in Sofia later this month. Robert Nock and Tracy Dineen are added to the singles entires while Lorraine Cole will now partner Julian Robertson in the mixed doubles.

Baseball Baseballi
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Caidend 3;
Mirnesota 3 Toromo 2; Tempa Bey 7 Denot 1;
Battanote 4 Kanesa City 3; Texas 20 Cricago
Withs Sor 4, Anatelen 10; New York Yarbees 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cricago Cube 6 Florida
7; Pirisburgh 4 Montreel 3: Ss. Louis 8 Los Anatelen 10;
Pirisburgh 4 Montreel 3: Ss. Louis 8 Los Anatelen 10;
Pirisburgh 6 New York Mets 5; Mireukee 8 AlJames 8 (7); managal, San Prancisco 9 Houston
2; Colorado 6 Artzons 4.

NBA: LA Lakers 117 New Jersey 106; New York 81 LA Cappers 70; Indiana 111 Minnesota 108; Golden State 104 Houston 94; San Antonio 103

BOWIS

MEN'S ALL ENGLAND INDOOR CHAMPIONSYR'S (Minition Monitoring): Singles first
round: S McAkster (Laborase) to D Cator
(Browston Hell) 21-19; JMBs (South Fores) bit
N Brett (Hungingdon) 21-9; M King (Pinescod
Paris to G A Smath (Orghens) 21-3; K Handerson (Pinesdale) bit H Brownsdon (bis of Wight)
21-2; G Sidgo (Thorneby) bit J Allien (Lusor) 214; M Minition (Pinesdale) bit R Stampson
(Curnote) 21-7; A Pinesda (Bashcar) bit 1 Gillett
(Bestoury) 21-17; G Bloon (Porn Maley) bit J Durtart (Preston) 21-12; G Brown (Brown (Barbarg)
bit D Carlstle (Winderinglas) 21-5; 5 Marted
(Mole Weigh; Leatherfread) bit N Corpin (Plant) (Mole Valley, Leatherhead) bit N Corbyn Pfush-denii 21-7; J Mille (South Prorest) bit S McAfs-ter (Leisester) 21-0; K Henderson (Preddale) bit M King (Pinewood Park) 21-0; M Wattern (Ryeddale) of G Stipp (Trianshy) 21-7; P Ben-nett (Southerh bit A Friend (Ipswich) 21-1; Peirs, earni-finalis; S Stevens and 1 Bond (Sourie) bit N Tornia nad I Feary (Bostin) 5-1. A Springel and G Crace (Handy Crossi bit D Wif-son and G Plasistir (Sourahorpe) 22-14.

finishing without a trophy for the first time since he was made coach, has led to his downfall.

Ice skating

Motorcycling

Rugby League Widnes Vikings are set to sign Mark Hewitt, the 24-year-old Hull Sharks scrum-half, on loan. Salford Reds have become the latest

HURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Friendly Match: Dessoury 6 Octain 20 Representa-tive Match: France Presidents XII 28 GB Roung Llans 16 (et Villeneuve)

Tennis

Pete Sampras, ousted this week by the Chilean Marcelo Rios as World No 1 Chilean Marcelo Hios as World No 1 atler 102 weeks at the top, has withdrawn from next week's Hong Kong Open because of a shoulder injury. FAMILY CHELLE CUP (Hilton Heart, S Cardina) Woman's singles, second round: A Cottor (SA) to S Farma 64 63. A Miser (US) bit M Pierce (Fr) 63.6-2. P Schryder (Smi), bit L Movies (US) is 53.8-2 M Serma (Sp) bit Eudowisea (Rus) 7-5.2-6.6-2; A Fusai (Fr) bit C Tor-

4-54-6-1 5-26-2; (Bratislava; Stocken) Sweden 0 (D Hrbaty to M Norman 7-6-4-5-6-3). Europan 1-6-4-5-6-3: Europan African Group One (Newbeatte): Great Birtain 1 Urraine 0 (G Rusectio b). A Rybato 6-60-6-4; (Helsinki): France 2 Finland 0 (G Rusectio b) T ketoti 6-1-6-1-6-7: C Plotte of V Luskio 6-3-7-5-7-5: (Buctarest): Romana 2 Norway 0 (D Pescanu b) J Fanderson 7-6-6-4-6-4. A Prive b): C Rusel 9-2-6-2-6-3; Asia-Ocaana Zone Group One (Miyasak), Japan): Alban 2 Mcw Zestand 0 (G Mojomura b) T Susnick 6-0-6-0-6-0. T Suzuki b) B Steven 7-6-7-5.

SNOW REPORTS

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GAFFER TAPES

rallies round. So as soon as I had to help out.

Within minutes I'd been on the blower to all the gang. Franzi, Pele and Michel. George and Sir Bob, Macca, Jamie and Incy and, of course. not be fit for England but. when it comes to a charity match to raise funds to save the Wetherfield One, they were up and running

Those of you who don't watch the commercial channel. or read the tabloids, may not know who the Wetherfield keep his feet on the ground. One is. I refer to Diedrie Barlow, as I still call her. Coronation Street's very own people's princess. Poor Diedrie's been is a figment of someone's imagstitched up and framed big time Pub League XI, which I had all the loot. And when she's in-

is that it is one big family. If help, Now, while I don't actusomeone is in trouble everyone ally watch the programme myself I know a bandwagon when got the call last week I knew I I see it and this one is definitely worth jumping on, already everyone from Tony Blair to The Sun are aboard.

rang was George at Leeds. all the United boys. They may about being the victim of a miscarriage of justice so I knew he'd be keen. I wanted him to be the bag man, we expect to take a lot of cash at the gate, but when I told him it meant flying to Switzerland to bank the goodies he bottled it and mumbled something about wanting to

Still, we've got a pitch sorted and expect to do pretty well. The best bit is that as Diedrie ination and she doesn't really evitably freed in some future coach journeys. The profit

And if they don't? "I would

They were even putting him

accept that. I still need to work to survive, I cannot go fishing. If

another club were interested ... '

up for the England job, but he

drew the line at that. "I would not

say no, but I think in England it

is important to be English for such a job and I wouldn't con-

sider doing it here - unless I de-

cided to stay for 10 to 15 years

and I considered myself English."

THE great thing about football late playing days, asked me to episode we can join in back-

Talking of money-spinners I got a great idea on my midweek travels with Chelsea. The way these trips operate is the best little earner since Bosman. You hire a cheap plane and Naturally the first person I check out a cheap hotel miles from the plush one the team Every time I see him he moans are in. Then you calculate how

many seats the team and official hangers-on need, add in a buffer zone of five rows of empty seats - to keep the smell away - and flog the rest of them to the press and "executive punters" (there always some prepared to pay the earth ropean identity in an expanding to sit within singing distance of Ed De Goey). The idea is to overcharge the press and punters by

enough to ensure the team travel free. So the Chelsea trip was marked up to about incur court costs we can keep £800 for one night in a hotel, that's our motto. two flights and a couple of

probably paid Zola's wages for a whole week.

Fortunately I got a Managers' Union discount as it was a fact-finding trip, I now know 11 Italians are better than three, especially if the 11 earn cumulatively less than the three.

This is the sort of knowledge we'll need in the Intertoto Cup next season. Yep, that's right, Słudgethorpe Brazil are taking on the might of Europe for the first time since the chairman's dad flew Lancaster bombers in the War. We see the Intertoto as a fundamental part of repositioning the brand as a pan-Eumarket. Plus, since the first rounds clash with the World Cup we might make a few quid by trading on the Brazil part of our name and offering it for ambush advertising to Nike's rivals. "Just sell it",

Not that football is all about

the love of the game. At least that's what it says in the preamble to our lottery submission for a retractable roof on the Old Comfield. We are thinking of going into partnership with the local county cricket

side and staging floodlit oneday matches. Come to think of it, we could have a benefit cricket match for Diedrie as well. What's Athers' number? He's a Manchester lad and he won't be too busy right now.

Shaun Prone and Ivor Niggle are both out today, they're acting as my betting runners at Aintree I let Fritz Unstartz take charge of the team but only after he promised not to play Duane Spice on the wing. Hope we win, but not in style.

PS: Congratulations to Bill Clinton. My lawyer says the collapse of Paula Jones' suit should help in three of the sexual harrassment cases against me.

Barry Gaffer was talking to

SIDELINES

Wright revelled in right connections

One man, above all, would have revelled in the collision of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Arsenal in tomorrow's FA Cup semi-final.



The late Billy Wright loved and served both chibs, captaining Wolves to numerous triumphs, including the Cup win of 1949, before becoming manager of Arsenal, his boyhood heroes, for four years until 1966.

Late in his life Wright returned to Wolves as a director. A more volatile character who played alongside him in the old gold as well as for England, Eddie Clamp, also moved to Highbury but stayed only 10 months. Strange but true: his mother kept up the Molineux connection by washing the kit in the dark days of the mid-1980s.

Alan Sunderland, who scored Arsenal's last-gasp winner in the 1979 final, was a £240,000 buy from Wolves. The Gunners' phlegmatic goalkeeper in the Double-winning campaign of 1971, Bob Wilson of ITV fame, joined them from the Black Country club without a League game to his name. Two contemporaries, Bobby Gould and Bob McNab, made

Bryn Jones cost Arsenal a world record £14,000 from Wolves in 1938, while John Barnwell and Tommy Docherty both played for the former and managed the latter. Latterday links include Ray Hankin, Vince Bartram and Jon Purdie, a winger released from Arsenal by the Wolverhampton-born Don Howe. Purdie made many goals for Steve Bull, also scoring spectacularly to seal Kidderminster's Cup upset at Birmingham four years ago,

> Ten things that Leeds' Australian Harry Kewell might be missing today



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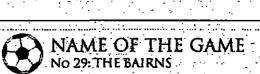
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His exciting birthplace, Smithfield. Home to the Dart Container Corporation, the world's largest producer of foam cups. 2 A healthy outdoor life. 3 A healthy dose of advertising censorship. Australian newspapers face £20,000 fines for printing any Formula 1 photographs that contain tobacco sponsorship logos. 4 Quest Australia, More Than Gold. Not an acprefers Leeds to his na- quickly as a Leeds plane. tional Olympic side, but a 10 Cooma centre. A ski

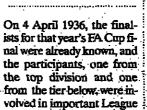
5 Kangaroos – although there are wild wallabies in Cheshire and Derbyshire. 6 The £200,000 bronze mermaids being planned for Bondi beach.
7 Slabs of stubbies. Cas-

es of small bottles of lager. 8 The National Dinosaur Museum in Ginnidera. Like Elland Road currently, not an exhibition of past greats, but interesting enough for the specialist. 9 Boomerangs. Return count of how Kewell to their starting point as Christian group planning resort (and just an absent free food at Sydney 2000. 'o' from Elland Road.)



Scottish football clubs have always had a liking for nicknames. Many, such as Falkirk's, come from local folklore. Anyone born in Falkirk Royal Infirmary, or indeed anywhere else in the town, is known locally as a "Bairn", or

THIS



matches. First Division Arsenal took on Brentford at home, and considering the Gunners were missing a number of players to the England side (who drew 1-1 with Scotland at Wembley the same day). they were lucky to come away with a 1-1 draw. The result took them to fifth in the table behind Sunderland, Derby, Stoke and Huddersfield.

Sheffield United, who would be the Second Division's representatives at Wembley, played at home to Barnsley and won 2-0. This took them to third in the table, behind West Ham and Manchester United.

As Arsenal take on Wolves tomorrow and Sheffield United meet Newcastle, one wonders whether they might be on course torepeat the 1936 Cup final, which Arsenal won, 1-0

ground at the same stage 19 years ago. Arsenal won 2-0, with goals by Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton. then beat Manchester United 3-2 in a memorable final. Sunderland, who moved

to Arsenal from Molineux,

played for Wolves in anoth-

HISTORY LESSON

Arsenal's FA Cop semi-final

against Wolves at Villa Park

tomorrow will stir memories

of their meeting at the same

er FA Cup tie between the two clubs six years earlier. In the late 1960s and early 1970s a short-lived experiment saw beaten semi-finalists meet in a play-off for third and fourth place in the Cup.

In 1973 Arsenal and Wolves - with Sunderland in their line-up-contested their EA Cup play-off at Highbury in August a week before the start of the following season. A crowd of 21,038 saw Wolves win 3-1 with goals by Derek Dougan (two) and Jim McCalling, Brian Horns

by replying for Arsenal. A week later Wolves opened their League campaign with a home win over Norwich by the same margin and with the same scorers.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Steven Tosh (midfielder) St Johnstone to Raith Rovers (£50,060); Greg Miller (midfielder) Hibernian to Livingston (nominal fee); Billly Findley (midfielder) Klimarnock to Ayr (nominal fee).

Leeds Utd to Jay, Wayne GBI (mid-fielder) Blacktum Rovers to Dundes Utd, Lindsay Hamilton (gosteepe) Queen's Park to Parikot Tristes; Sleve-Maskrey (forward) Livingston to Conderbeath; Andy McCondictie (gosteeper) Celtic to Arrhet; Britan McLaughilin (forward) Cettic to Air-drie; David Rosis (forward) Invertess Cetedorian Thieste in Ross County;

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Sand to Skielines, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, Los e-mail address: sport @ independent co.uk

Wenger relishes long English stay

fair with the English game shows no sign of waning and why should it while he stands on the threshold of achieving something as essentially English as the Double?

But it is another romance, one even more elusive than the famed League and Cup Double. which has amazed even the most cynical. And that is his ongoing relationship with the Eng- Arsène?" inquired another. lish media.

The Arsenal manager has an affinity with them that some English managers would die for - and one or two have, figmore likely to turn Wenger into a French onion soup, à la Graham Taylor, than they are to devour their own grandmothers, hardest-nosed hacks go all gonev-eved at the mere sound that he wanted to stay in Eng- a new contract at the end of the

By Stephen Vines

WEMBLEY International, the

overseas management arm of

Wembley plc, which has just an-

nounced the sale of Wembley

Stadium, is in danger of losing its

to manage Hong Kong's 40,000

Wembley won the contract,

against strong competition, in

March 1994, helping the parent

company when its fortunes were

contract has proved to be some-

the first day there have been

the local urban council, said

they were giving Wembley a

"last chance" to get the pitch right

six months ago. Ambrose Che-

The owners of the stadium.

problems with the pitch.

seater sports stadium.

in Hong Kong

Wembley may

lose foreign deal

largest foreign contract as moves board member, said that court

have started to end its agreement action was being considered.

at their lowest ebb. However the about the state of the pitch.

thing of a nightmare and from ness. Wembley tried to use the

ung, the chairman of the com- tions director, Marcus Carling,

ARSENE WENGER'S love af- Clive White on how a Frenchman has

charmed his way into the media's notebooks

land beyond the duration of his season? "If they want, why not?" three-year contract at Arsenal. their delight was hard to conceal. We think you are a great

bloke," said one. "You've brought something new to the game here, have you taken anything from us.

Even Wenger, who normally conceals his emotions rather well for a Frenchman, appeared moved. He replied that, indeed. he had; the English, of all peouratively speaking. They are no ple, had taught him about passion. There can be no denying Wenger's sincerity, he is deeply in love with the English game which clearly goes beyond his atwell mothers at least. Even the tachment to the Gunners. Now was not the time, though, to talk about contracts, or even the of his dulcet French tones and Double - "that's unprofessional" when he told them this week was -but if Arsenal were to offer him

pany which owns the stadium.

said yesterday, "we thought we

achieved a basis of understand-

ing. We are being let down and

we are disappointed by that".

10-year contract. Fred Li, a

The stadium is best known

as the home of the Hong Kong

International Rugby Sevens.

However, when Manchester

United played there last August,

an official complaint was made

stadium for concerts. This soon

degenerated into farce after

noise complaints. At one concert

pop fans were issued with gloves

to dull their clapping. There

was no response yesterday from

Wembley's Hong Kong opera-

Desperate to drum up busi-

The company is looking into

In the meantime they could do worse than put him in charge of our 2006 World Cup bid. "If I want to make anyone happy, I invite them to an English game, just to experience the special spirit." he said. He had noticed it on his first visit here 20 years ago, and hoped then that he would one day work in England. "I was always a fanatic, but here you have the feeling that you are not the only one. The biggest passion is here. There is a respect for the fans which you don't find abroad."

There is also, of course, a special spirit among the Highbury players which Wenger, upon his arrival, had been anxious not to disturb. "I would say it is difficult to find that same togetherness at other big clubs, like Real Madrid or Inter, because they change the players every year or every othways of terminating Wembley's er year. Patience at most clubs

doesn't exist any more." Because of that "togetherness." it had taken time for his French signings to become assimilated although, "I never thought there was a split in the camp. It's natural, the players already here had been together for 10 years - the French players had to prove they wanted to win just as much as them. They also had to adapt to the English game. At first they felt that the game

should adapt to them." Asked if Wembley conjured up for him the same romantic notions that it does for countless Englishmen, he came back quick as a flash: "We had very realistic ones because we tried to buy it."



Flowers to have operation

THE World Cup paths of Paul contrasting turns yesterday, with the Manchester United midfielder escaping the surgeon's knife, while the Blackburn keep-

er had an exploratory operation. Scholes, his club and England were relieved to find that his knee trouble was simply down to overuse which has responded to a less hectic schedule now United are out of the Champions' League.

However, Flowers, who should have been facing his England colleague in Monday's Premiership match at Ewood Park, may have to accept that his chances of playing in the World Cup finals in nine weeks' time are slim. His damaged shoulder was the subject of keyhole surgery yesterday and the full extent of the injury should be known within the next few days.

Alex Ferguson, the United

manager, confirmed that Sc-Scholes and Tim Flowers took holes will not now need an operation at the end of the season. "The one game a week is helping and there's no great strain on him now as compared to the period when he was playing with the injury," Ferguson said. "That run of Saturday, Wednesday, Sat-

urday just caught up with him." United's other casualties - Peter Schmeichel (hamstring), Gary Pallister (back), Ryan Giggs (hamstring) and Nicky Butt (calf) - are all back in training and in contention for the trip to Blackburn. Teddy Sheringham is also available after a one-match ban.

The transfer of Georgi Kinkladze rests on the outcome of haggling between Manchester City and Ajax. City want £5.5m. while the Dutch side see the Georgian - valued at £10m a year ago - as more of a £3m player.

Bargain hunters should stay clear of Aston Villa, who have

the striker Savo Milosevic. "We've just written off £3m in selling Sasa Curcic [to Crystal Palacel and we don't intend to give Savo away," John Gregory, the Villa manager, said.

Colin Todd looks certain to be in trouble with the Football Association after criticising Premiership referees on a radio programme. "Referees have got to be fair and they have got to be honest, and I don't think a lot of them are at this moment in time," the Bolton manager said.

The Portsmouth chairman Martin Gregory has abandoned plans to self the club to the American property developer Vince Wolanin and rock star Brian Howe, and announced he will invest £10m into the First Division club himself. Gregory now intends to buy land adjacent to Fratton Park and build a new

Davidson wants to put City's name up in lights

FAN'S EYE **VIEW** NO 248

BRISTOL CITY DAVE MASSEY

Second Division. City's improved fortunes are linked to the ascendancy to the chairmanship of Scott Davidson, which has finalised a close link between "star" supporters and local showhiz. Celebrity fans range from the sublime (3D and Grant from Massive Attack) to the "ridiculous" (Tony "Baldrick" Robinson) and Channel 5's Jonathan Pearce.

session musician with Eighties popsters Bros and the Centenary 97-98 season. Pet Shop Boys, before setting

lish city not to have a Pre- trade paper and selling up two tradition in recent years of miership club, yet the years ago for a tasty sum. This footballing fortunes of its enabled him to fulfil a lifelong making an impact at Ashton two teams are on the up. To- dream of close involvement day's local derby pits the with City, and his fierce am-Reds (City) against the Gas bition and desire for a "cul-(Rovers) with both sides ture of success shines being the top scorers in the through the club that has alsuccessful Wembley appearways been regarded as a "sleeping giant".

He has had a crash course in hands-on chairmanship in ing a buy-out of the rump of the aftermath of the crowd invasion in the Sky televised promotion campaign in a made a major impact.

BRISTOL is the largest Eng- up a profitable Loot-style John Ward, has continued a former Rovers managers Gate. The former Leeds and England full-back, Terry Cooper, took City out of the old Fourth Division and to a ance in the Freight Rover Trophy final in 1986.

This season, after a shaky start. Ward has put together the last two years - negotiat- a winning and entertaining blend of youth and experithe old Board: dealing with ence. There has been a heartening influx of local lads into the team - the pint-sized Bristol derby match in De- bundle of determination, cember 1996; the "easing Tom Doherty, the classy out" of the previous manage centre-back. Louis Carey, er. Joe Jordan: and prepara- and mercurial midfielder, Davidson was previously a tion for a successful Matt Hewlett - who have

These and other young-Jordan's replacement, sters waiting in the wings

emphasis on youth, and the in football. Buster Footman. appointment last season of This man is a legend, from his David Burnside, the former ever-ready good humour, to FA youth director, set out that his unbelievable ability to commitment. From this survive sub-zero temperapromising beginning it looks tures wearing a short-sleeved as if City will be the only club T-shirt: His exploits have in the South-west to have "Academy" status.

Caribbean connection in top gramme. scorer and Bermudan, Shaun Goater, and the mazy dribbling skills of Barbadian, Gregory Goodridge (via Torquay and QPR). These far cry from the sad statistics two players have been the best crowd-pleasers for several years since the dazzling which brought City close to and much loved Pole, "Jackie" Dziekanowski, and the lightning pace and predatory goal poaching of Andy Cole combined sweetly up front.

We also have the most

have reflected the board's appropriately named physio been so keenly watched that he has been granted his own City also have a creative column in the match day pro-

> The Robins' top position and near certain promotion gives the club a great chance to build for the future. It is a of three consecutive relegations in the early Eighties, bankruptcy and put it in the limelight only for negative reasons. This time around it looks as if Davidson and his colleagues are hitting the right notes.



From Fever Pitch to Uruguayan eclecticism football's an open book

A Comment - Ann **建工业**统 " **萨斯斯**

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A CONTRACTOR

FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

ON HOW THE NATIONAL GAME HAS BECOME PUBLISHING PHENOMENON

WITH 67 days to go, Rio Fer- in the real thing, this FA (and, lished his autohiography, Ma ball rolling in 1992, spawning worth a reputed £1m) and a fetched £350, while the first in to Bobby Moore since Bobby Moore delivered another cool defensive display against Leeds on Monday and the following day gave an assured performance at the launch of The Official Team England World Cup Squad Book, signing copies like a pro. That he was the one England player chosen to be there suggests he will also be there -

or thereabouts - in France. Ferdinand is not noted for being as lucid off the park as he is fluid on it, but he did manage to plug the book eloquently enough, as one "packed with facts and figures on this year's World Cup which will help any kid enjoy the full 90 minutes but also last well into miury time".

And so it should, at £7.99 for 80, admittedly action-packed, pages. However, like England

dinand looks to be going to the er, BP) endorsed guide faces Vie Comme Un Ballon to find a generation of cult books but World Cup. The nearest thing stiff competition. There are (at least) 20 such guides in the offing (not counting those that will appear attached to magazines and cereal packets) and a further 10 (at least) World Cuporiented books, all expected to jump on the same crowded bandwagon to France.

> Not a lot really, compared to the 180 publications that are due to flood the French market, but then this World Cup represents an unprecedented opportunity for French publishers to sink their studs into a previously untapped audience.

Football books are small fry in France - a few annuals and Rothmans-type guides are published each season - but biographies are as rare as a David Ginola international appearance. Before Eric Cantona's, you have to go back to 1989 when Michel Platini pub-

one worth its salt. Evidently, the likes of Zinedine Zidane have less to say than say. Les Ferdinand. Or perhaps they just let their football do the talking.

The English market is a different kettle of fish (or trawler of sardines, as Cantona might say). Like the game itself, football book publishing in this country has gone from strength to strength during the Nineties, and the bubble shows no sign

Last year alone, around 600 football books were published by a variety of publishers ranging from major players such as Headline, HarperCollins and Andre Deutsch (who have exclusive rights on Manchester United publications) to the smaller publishers like Mainstream and Boxtree (who are on

Cheisea's books, so to speak). Of course. Fever Pitch set the

inadvertently paving the way for a plethora of glossy commercial spin-offs and overhyped autobiographies that are seldom as polished as their subjects. If Mark Hughes, for instance, is a scorer of great goals rather than a great

great footballer rather than a great football book, Likewise. Gary McAllister's Captain's Log is an uninspiring book about an inspirational player. Of course there are exceptions, like Jack Charlton: The Autobiography. Garry Nelson's Left Foot Forward and The Hand

goalscorer (as he was once de-

scribed) then his autobiogra-

phy. Sparky, is a book about a

of God, whose subject needs no introduction. But while these books mean big money (Alex Ferguson has signed the biggest football publishing deal in history for his autobiography,

be long on cliches, short on revelations. Surely the idea is to write a hook, only if you've got a story to tell?

Thankfully, some players do have scruples on such matters; John Wark apparently declined to write his autobiography because he didn't have enough beans to spiil. But it is generally the more innovative and original titles that stand out; like Simon Kuper's Footpall Against The Enemy and Feotball In Sun Ana Shadon, an eclectic celebration of football penned by Uruguayan Eduardo Galeano.

Not that the Uruguayans are known for their predilection towards football books. Not one was published to commemorate the first World Cup in that country; ditto 1934 in Italy. The only recognised book on the 1938 World Cup, written in French, recently

captive audience, they tend to English on the World Cup was a paperhack potted history published for the 1954 finals. is now worth £130.

Whether a book becomes a collector's item depends on many factors, not least the number of copies printed. Hence the reason copies of the 1993 "classic" on Gillingham, The Home of The Shouting Men - of which only a few thousand copies were printed - now fetches six times its original £25 cover price.

The first edition of Fever Pitch is already worth £35, and the latest edition still features in the sports bestseller lists. According to the specialist bookshop Sportspages - and rather depressingly in the light of last Saturday's events - the current bestsellers include Ginnors, the story of a Moss Side story to tell." Right now, howhooligan gang leader which is ever, there has never been a banned by every club in the better time to read all about it.

country, and Derby Days by those reformed hooligans, the Brimson brothers.

Their publishers, Mainstream, claim that the brothers make no excuse for their subject matter, as ex-thugs they can, apparently, provide an objective insight into hooliganism. Mainstream's biggest selling football book to date remains Ally Mc-Coist's autobiography Top Man (40,000 copies).

But Mainstream's MD, Bill Campbell, admits that while the business is thriving enough to justify a new sports paperback imprint which will publish six new paperback titles a month - the business is more precarious than it looks. "We can talk a good game now," he says, "but one dodgy night against Tunisia, and suddenly there's not such a good

Chelsea haunted by Italian supremacy

The portents are not good for England's last team in Europe, writes Glenn Moore

TUCKED into their corner of have won 12 and competed in Chelsea fans taunted those supwatching on Channel 5.

teams in Europe, we've got cannot be written off.

four teams in Europe." Vicenza, Juventus, Internazionale and Lazio were all victorious in their first legs of Vicenza defeated Chelsea in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, Juventus thrashed Monaco in Ucfa Cup, Lazio won away to Atletico Madrid and Internazionale at home to Spartak Moscow.

Italian clubs have dominated Europe ever since English teams were banned in the wake of the Heysel disaster. Of the 36 trophies contested since they

the Stadio Romeo Menti the a staggering 23 finals. The rate has even improved since Engporters of other English clubs lish clubs returned in 1991. Juventus and Lazio are already "One team in Europe, only favourites to add to that tally one team in Europe," went the this year and, though Chelsea cry. Had they been patriotical- are confident of overhauling ly inclined the Vicenza fans that Thursday's 1-0 deficit at Stamsurrounded them on Thursday ford Bridge in a fortnight - and night could have replied with becoming only England's fourth the Italian equivalent of: "Four finalist in that time - Vicenza

Vicenza's win encapsulated Four winning teams as well. many of the reasons for Italy's success in European club competition. They had, as George Graham once said lovingly of European semi-finals this week. Milan, "good players working hard". Vicenza were billed as a team without stars and it is true they had no familiar names the European Cup and, in the and only one foreigner in the 18man squad, the Uruguayan right-back Gustavo Mendez.

> ers with Lamberto Zauli's ball control, as he outwitted three Chelsea defenders to score the only goal, illustrative of the quality of technique. The tire-



Latin celebration: Vicenza's players run towards their supporters after their 1-0 victory over Chelsea on Thursday

Marco Schenardi and Gabriele one style to another as their Ambrosetti, typified the side's grafting qualities.

The irony for many English observers is that the strengths of Vicenza and many other Italian sides - organisation, balance, patience and hard work - is reminiscent of the Liverpool and Nottingham Forest sides that once dominated Europe. The 4-4-2 formation and But they still had good playpressing game now so familiar in Serie A was once the modus operandi of the English clubs

play-manager Gianluca Vialli seeks a way of combining the 4-3-3 shape he knew at Juven-

ous with his personnel. Thursday's attempt did not work and it also upset two key when they ruled the roost.

players, Dan Petrescu and Gianfranco Zola, both of whom were asked to play out of position in a wide attacking role. Their contrasting responses -

Zola working hard in vain, Petrescu only showing passion when substituted - were indicative of their different per-Now Chelsea, with their sonalities but each revealed less work of the wide men, multi-national side, switch from the need for Vialli to get his tac- Derby. Ed De Goey was out- keeping coach, Eddie Niedz- to do so.

ties right and the incompatibility of his nice-guy approach to the realities of management.

While Petrescu stormed off angrily when replaced Zola, so desperate for an impressive performance in his homeland to lift his World Cup chances, waited to the end to lament; "I'd like to play in my position but I am playing for the team. not myself. If the manager needs me to play there I have to accept it."

Petrescu's petulance is not Vialli's only problem as he prepares for tomorrow's match at

Vialli's professed two-keeper back, "The situation is not idepolicy he now faces a 13-day layoff before the crucial second-leg with Vicenza at Stamford Bridge on 16 April. In between Dmitri Kharine is due to play about it. I've never been in a sitthree Premiership matches, uation like this before." Given Vialli having said the Russian plays League games and the

Dutchman cup matches. This policy is thought to be motivated in part by a desire to discover, before the end of the ham on 11 April. season, whether Kharine has fully recovered from his lengthy knee injury. However, as goal-

Further motivation for the last 50 years, but the Ibrox club Sunday, "I don't think it makes

There is little doubt that

Rangers are hitting form at the

right time, with Ally McCoist the

"Four or five weeks ago you

prime motivator.

standing in goal but, under wiecki, admitted on the flight al and it's going to come to a head sooner or later."

> De Goey himself said: "It is frustrating and I'm not happy De Goev's form, and Vicenza's sharpness on the counter-attack. it would seem the Dutchman must play beforehand, if not at Derby then at home to Totten-

And Vicenza, "To be honest. I think we will win." said Zola. Chelsea will have to play better

much difference," he said. "I

don't think it is wise to think too

much about the next game be-

cause all you can do is focus on

fixtures and pools check TODAY 3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premiership

Major weekend

Aston Villa v West Ham... Leeds v Barnsley Leicester v Coventry...... Sheffield Wed v Southampton Wimbledon v Sciton ...

Nationwide League 3 Bury v Huddersfield 4 Manchester City v Stockport.... 5 Norwich v Bradford City 6 Port Vale v Oxford United Portsmouth v Birmingham

Reading v Stoke City 9 Swindon v Charlton 10 West Brom v Middlesbro Second Division 11 Blackpool v Walsel 12 Bournemouth v Wycombe.

15 Grimsby v Gillinghan 20 Wigan v Wattord 21 Wrexham v Brentlon

Third Division 22 Brighton v Scunthorp 23 Darlington v Barnet ...

30 Torquay v Rochdale Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-final Falkirk v Hearts

(at librox Park, Glasgow) Pemier Division Aberdeen v St Johnstone Dundee Utd v Dunfermäne

First Division Andrie v Dundee 31 Ranh v Morton 32 St Mirren v Hamilton Stirling v Ayr ...

Second Division 33 Brechin v Stenhousemu 34 Livinoston v Civde Third Division Albion Rovers v Arbroath

38 Montrose v Queen's Park GM Vauxhall Conference 39 Haifax v Woking Hednesford v Gateshead 40 Leek v Yeovi

Stevenage v Kidderminster 42 Welling v Morecambe... Dr Martens Premier 43 Bath v Atherstone 44 Cambridge City v Dorchester ... 45 Crawley v Kingls Lynn

48 Rothwell v Ashford....... 49 Sallsbury v Bromsgrove

TOMORROW FA Cup semi-finals

FA Carling Premiership Nationwide League

First Division Nottrn Forest v loswich (1205) Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-final Rangers v Celtic (50) ... (at Parkhead, Glasgow

Bell's Scottish League Second Division Queen of South v East Fife (3.0)

Hearts work at turning Cup whispers into roars

By David McKinney

IN THE West End of Edinburgh they are beginning to talk about success where before and 96-since they last won the they whispered. For a generation, supporters

lived in hope of landing one of Cup double, the majority of the Scottish football's prizes; they have dreamed of new heroes to idolise and of an open-top bus picking its way through the want both," he said. "Getting crowd along Gorgie Road. one would be major progress for There was only black and

white television the last time that happened. Hearts, it seems, have played for years in black to win them both." and white, always losers with only flashes of colour in their seasons.

minutes of a title win and they have lost a Scottish Cup final in every decade - in 1968, '76, '86 trophy in 1956.

This week as they sit on the of Heart of Midlothian have verge of a possible league and supporters would hedge their bets and hope for one trophy. Not so Jim Jefferies, the manager. "We're greedy. We

> the club, but if you are in the hunt for two trophies you want Jefferies, who was a sturdy

defender for Hearts in his play-

In 1986 they came within 15 ing days, has slowly produced a perienced players who have blend of useful exuberance allied with experience that has made Hearts as potent a force this season as either Celtic or Rangers. Seven of their players were recently called up for in-

ternational duty for Scotland. They face Falkirk at Ibrox today in the first of the weekend's Scottish Cup semi-finals with a collection of Scots, Frenchmen and an Austrian.

years ago, Hearts are hoping to go one step further, but they will not underestimate their First Division opponents, who were

League match."

back to the final. Having lost in the final two

last year's beaten finalists.

been in the Premier League and had a great Cup run last year, Jefferies said. "We'll be treating this just like a Premier Falkirk will revel in the un-

derdog role they know so well. Alex Totten, their manager, watched them lift the Scottish Cup in 1957 and hopes to take the club he supported as a boy "Last season we beat Dun-

fermline, Raith and Celtic of the Premier Division," he said. "No one gave us a chance against Celtic in the semi-final, so we know cup-ties are all about what "They have a lot of good, ex- you do on the day."

club will come from a balance have won on each occasion. sheet that shows debts of £1.5m. Falkirk are in preliminary liquidation and it could be literally a final appearance in May, Totten's team have re-

sponded well since the day they were given the option of taking their boots home and seeing the doors close behind them or fighting on. "The situation has given the players a stronger bond." he said. Celtic go into tomorrow's

game at Parkhead attempting to end a 73-year wait by beating Rangers in a Scottish Cup semifinal. The two have met only

could sense the boys were low in terms of morale, but we have now got ourselves together," he said. 'We had a little bit of a get-together and a chat. But we are not the finished article yet. That's why Celtic have to be the favourites."

Walter Smith, the manager, suggested that there would be little psychological advantage to be gained in the first of a double header, with the two sides meetthree times at this stage in the league the following Paul Lambert said.

the day and try to be successful." Wim Jansen, the Celtic coach, will be without Stéphane Mahe, the French defender who will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury, while Morten Wieghorst is suspended.

Having already lifted the Coca-Cola Cup. Celtic are on course for the treble. "We are now approaching the whole run-in and what is at the end of it and the rewards that are there are huge," midfielder

67 days until the start of the

EVEN if he watches his side lift the World Cup at the Stade de France in July, it seems that Argentina's coach, Daniel Passarella, will be looking for new employers

Passarella said this week that he is unlikely to stay in Argentina. "Once the World Cup is over, I'll probably work for some European club," he said.

Bayern admit to spying on one of their players



THE tabloid newspaper Bild ran a front-page story on Wednesday which many readers apparently thought was an April Fool's joke.

It alleged that Bayern Munich had employed a private detective to spy on the lifestyle of their international midfielder. Mario Basier. To the embarrassment of the powerful Bundesliga club, though, the story was at least partly true.

"It was not a detective," Bayern's press officer, Markus Hörwick, said. "One of our

employees simply checked how late Basler returned home.

Bayern's general manager, Uli Höness, said: "Sometimes young people have to be looked after. I don't regard this as an unusual méasure."

Asked if he had been upset to have somebody watching over him, Basler said: "That was not a problem. While he was 11pm."

Japan/South Korea FIFA, world football's ruling body, this week denied a report Cooper ruled that out ab- February. He arrived in Burk- is the new goalkeeping coach.

suggesting that South Korea and solutely. He insisted there had in a Faso claiming he was just on Japan wanted to delay the start been no discussion with either a scouting mission for the of the 2002 World Cup finals to avoid playing during the June-July rainy season. "It's not true at all," Keith

Cooper, a Fifa spokesman, said. "We don't know anything about it." An American news agency had earlier quoted the South Korean prime minister as sayaround, I always went to bed at ing local World Cup organisers were discussing with Fifa the possibility of delaying the finals

until September. Fifa were reported to be posSouth Korea or Japan on the subject. "We play in June and July," he said. "That is when the players are available.

Cameroon unveiled their new

new coaching set-up this week. former national team centreforward, was a man of mystery

ONE man's name was cons-

roon dressing-room at every match. Sources close to the team said that he had even been giving team talks. However, there was no offi-

French club, Montpellier, but he

was seen going into the Came-

cial job for Milla this week. The picuous by its absence when outgoing coach, Jean Onguené, has been demoted to No 2 to the new coach, Claude Le Roy, Roger Milia, the talismanic who returns for his second spell in charge. Another Frenchman. Pierre Makowsky, is the fitness itive about the proposal - but at the African Nations' Cup in trainer while Thomas N'Kono



World Cup finals...

later in the summer.

Passarella was the captain of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side and took over the coaching job after the 1994 tournament. He made his name as the coach of the Buenos Aires club River Plate, leading them to two national titles. Having largely maintained discipline among his volatile squad, he is unlikely to be short

Blades cut a dash for the romantics

IN THE 18 years since a team from the second tier of English football last won sources and quality between the Premiership and the First Division has reputedly widened to the extent that a final between Arsenal and

mality on 16 May. Fortunatel for all who look to the Cup as the lest refuge of romance in an era of rampant commercialism. two Nationwide League clubs have proved that status and reputations still count for little or nothing in knock-out competition.

Newcastle United ought to be a for-

Sheffield United who last lifted the trophy in 1925, qualified for tomorrow's se ni-final with Newcastle at Old Trafford by virtue of coming through two matches against Coventry unscarbed. Wolverhampton Wanderers, who have not taken the prize since 1960, earned a noon date with Arsenal at Villa Park despite being drawn away to Wimbledon and Leeds in previous rounds.

without a team from the top section, more vulnerable Newcastle outfit. By trip to Wembley in the Cup would there must be a strong possibility of contrast. Arsenal tackle Wolves in the FA Cup, the gulf in re- at least one of the underdogs reach- peak form if not at full strength.

DWWWW

Curiously, three of the teams will The feeling that Sheffield Unit- be playing for the credibility and posed have a better chance than Wolves sibly the jobs of their managers. Steve is based as much on the merits of Thompson's priority at Sheffield

Last five League matches WDLWD

Arsenal v Wolves

Top scorers Dougie Freedman 12 Dennis Bergkamp 19

Wolves are hopeful that Keith Curle and Don Goodman will be fit after being rested in midweek. Simon Osborn is suspended, Neil Emblen is cup-tied and David Connolly still has not received international clearance from Feyencord. Veteran striker Steve Bull is likely to start on the bench.

Arsenal's Ian Wright is virtually certain to be missing with a groin injury, while Dennis Bergkamp is suspended and Marc Overmars, who has a bruised ankle, has been given no better than a 50-50 chance. But Gilles Grimandi should be fit to replace full-back Lee Dixon, who is out for an-

Referee: S J Lodge (Barnsley)

Although the needle would go off their respective opponents as on their United, where he is officially in the footballing Richter scale if the own capabalities. Put bluntly, the charge until the end of the season, games produced the first-ever final Blades may never come across a is promotion via the play-offs. Yet a make him virtually unsackable.

The position of Mark McGhee, who is apparently no closer to ending Wolves' exile from the top flight. could become untenable unless he has a final appearance to fall back on. And even Kenny Dalglish, whose career is littered with honours, will come under pressure should Newcastle pass up the chance to redeem a wretched season.

On paper, a Newcastle team sixth from bottom in the Premiership should have too much power and class for the side sixth from top in the First. If, for example, Alan Shearer were at his best, it would hard to see Sheffield living with them.

The signs are, however, that Shearer has not regained the sharpness he had before his most recent injury. His colleagues have also been playing with a lack of spirit that may owe something to the furore created by the shenanigans of two

Dean Saunders and Graham Stuart, be absent from Arsenal's line-up. the ebuilient Thompson possesses and of thriving on the atmosphere. In the underrated Alan Kelly, he us," McGhee said, a statement that may also have the better goalkeep- perhaps owed as much to candour

Wolves, meanwhile, are heart-missing, the better for us."

Newcastle v Sheffield Utd.

Blades' keeper Alan Kelly is in to play after shaking of the effects of thused ride, while defenders Christond's and hoper Nisen, who haven't played since the replay, will undergo late threes tests on harristing.

have harmstring injuries, and cupoted diffreplayer Andy Griffin Alessen-dro Pisione is hopeful of being fit aftermissing the pilcheck draw eigenst Wimbledon with a back muscle injury while barren Peacock Is-hav-ing intensive treatment on his pathatist being carried of the that match.

McGhee, who performed the Falling behind could find their ened by the likelihood that both morale wanting, and in the likes of Marc Overmars and Ian Wright will considerable feat of outwitting George Graham tactically in the quarter-final, said he had devised a along with the suspended Demis players capable of taking advantage Bergkamp, "We've got to concede strategy for doing the same to AIsène Wenger. This may involve usthat they've got better players than ing three central defenders, with Steve Sedgley and Dean Richards forming a formidable barrier around as to kidology. "The more that are

Keith Curle. "It won't just be about stopping them, but if we go out there without finding ways of combating them, they'll beat us." Asked to claborate, he promised: "We're not going to string 11 people across our goal line." Nine or 10 might be another

It is unthinkable that Steve Bull will not at least take part as a substitute. If Wolves lost without the fans' idol being involved, McGhee could probably clear his desk on Monday. They may actually have the edge in attack, where Wenger is placing a heavy burden on the inexperienced shoulders of Nicolas Anelka and Christopher Wren, but in midfield and defence the balance is tilted firmly the other way.

Toon Army turn on 'clueless, dreadful, boring' King Kenny The roundheads have replaced Keegan's cavaliers at Newcastle and the rapport between manager Kenny Dalglish (right) and the club's fans is at an all-time low. Guy Hodgson went in search of FA Cup fever on Tyneside - but found only the chill of discontent

IT DID not take a fanciful mind to draw a parallel with the splendid building that looms over Newcastle United's training ground and the man who was speaking. Lumley Castle's battlements. Kenny Dalglish's words, it was hard to discern which was the more resistant to

He sat in the classic defensive pose, arms crossed, beating away the media with a politician's tongue. This was Newcastle's pre-FA Cup semifinal open morning, but the portcutlis was down, the drawbridge up and the only things coming out were arrows of

Would the team be staying away to prepare for tomorrow's match against Sheffield United? "We always go away to prepare for away matches. Yeah we'll go away." Tonight? "No." Tomorrow? "I'm not going to

near Wembley.

automatons has got anywhere

will send the country to sleep." Others spoke of tomorrow's

Dalglish has become the focus er whose public wariness appears to have been transmitted to the style on the field. Boring", "dreadful", "clueless" were three of the printable words used to describe the team. Not so much Cup fever had spread as amazement that a commonly conceived side of

Newcastle this week the chance. That if he fails to get greater you realised that Newcastle to their first final of debate in the city. Few sup-tween manager and supporter, porters warm to their manag- which has never widened to at Old Trafford. An unexpected outcome of

"Don't get me wrong," one supporter dressed in a replica shirt said outside the club's souvenir shop at St James' Park. "I'm happy, no proud, that Newcastle are in the semifinals of the FA Cup, but why couldn't it have been Kevin Keegan's team? They'd have set Wembley alight. Daglish

The more time you spent in match as being Dalglish's last since 1974, the tenuous link bemore than a thread, will be irreparably broken. Few semifinal managers have had as much at stake as Dalglish has

> the furore surrounding the disgraced erstwhile directors Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall has not been a release of pentup discontent. Like the French Revolution, one grievance cleared seems to have merely opened the eves to others. The character of Dalglish, or rather his team, has become an issue running alongside the road to Wembley.

> This is my first semifinal." Mark Jensen, editor of the Newcastle fanzine. The Mag, said, "and when I used to

> > In the aftermath of Leices-

spectre of relegation from the Premiership has put a different light on things.

"I'm sure the atmosphere will be terrific on the day but so far, with so much else going on, it hasn't been feverish. People have been distracted. Certainly it's not been a charge at the FA Cup final, it's been more of a plod."

That slog has been most apparent in the League where the laughing, off-the cuff, cavaliers of Keegan have been replaced with stone-faced roundheads. Which would be tolerated if the team were successful, but they have not won any of their last seven Premiership matches and are only five points above the relegation

"The rest of the season doesn't bear thinking about if we don't get the right result on Sunday." Jensen said. "Last

it was nothing like this. The citement, we were in the People were prepared to sac- ers of armour. A glimpse came ence stalled to a halt. "No pecations were high. It was onwards and upwards. Being on the edge of the relegation zone never came into the

> "The feelings about Dalglish are very mixed. There are people who wouldn't be upset if he left tomorrow, but the majority are looking for him to turn things round. People know he's had problems, but the simple fact is the football is terrible.

> The League table does not lie." Jensen is not one who subscribes to the theory that Dalglish will go if Newcastle lose tomorrow, if only because, with seven matches to go and the transfer deadline past, a change of manager would be pointless.

"He probably has until Christmas, "be said. "If we stay tended to build. up I think people will reserve judgement until the start of the players he has bought gel. it is hard to find under the lay-

Champions' League and ex- rifice a little bit of excitement when he talked about Robert problem." With that he left successful team, but there has string problem," he said, "which been little evidence of im-

> Which made Dalglish's reticence this week more strange. Here was a chance to toss aside the barriers that appear to have grown between the club and the fans and embrace them. They could have prepared at the Durham training ground where thousands used to throng to witness the Keegan revolution, but chose instead to cling to the security of Chester-le-Street's Riverside complex. On Thursday just two people watched Alan Shearer and co practise. A chance lost, just as the press conference probably laid waste more bridges than those it in-

Friends say Dalglish is wonderful company and has a misnext season when they'll see if chievous sense of humour but

of the Keegan years to get a Lee's injury. "He's got a hamis a surprise because it usually only affects quick players."

at which point the steel door slammed shut. "He's heard it I'll be writing to the chairman before," Dalglish replied, quick to tell him so. The sooner he as a flash with the put-down.

This week Nicky Marker, a Sheffield United player who worked under Dalglish at Blackburn Rovers, could not final is apposite in more ways have been more effusive about his manager. "I could never find a bad word about him." he said. "I remember once my child was ill and taken to hospital but as soon as Kenny found out he pulled me out of the game and told me to go home. He is different class, always will be."

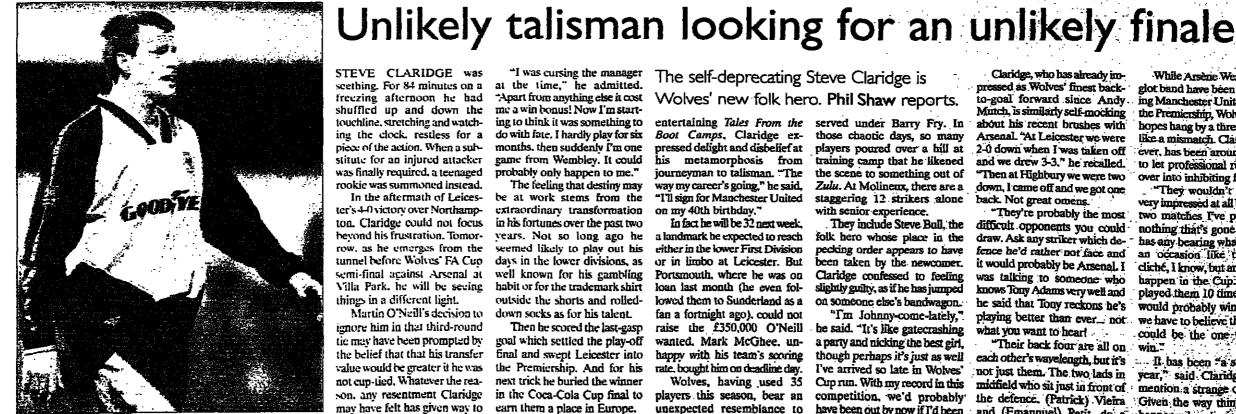
Loved by his players, cold and aloof to the people who could transmit that affection to a wider audience. "Is that it," erwise the split will become per-

leaving bemusement and anger behind him.

No problem? Downstairs a member of the media let rip at "Good story," someone said. Newcastle's public relations officer. That was a disgrace and [Dalglish] is out of this club the better."

At the moment we are notat the final chance, but semithan one. A joke, printed in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle this week illustrated the distance between manager and fan. "Dalglish went into a pub one day," it read, "found it was

happy hour and walked out." Local papers do not print things like that unless a gap has grown. The Newcastle supporters need Dalglish to find them some happy hours. Oth-



Claridge: A 'strange old year'

<u>ැ</u>

relief and gratitude. Photograph: Peter Jay

"I was cursing the manager at the time," he admitted. "Apart from anything else it cost me a win bonus! Now I'm starting to think it was something to do with fate. I hardly play for six months, then suddenly I'm one game from Wembley. It could

The feeling that destiny may be at work stems from the extraordinary transformation in his fortunes over the past two years. Not so long ago he seemed likely to play out his days in the lower divisions, as well known for his gambling Villa Park, he will be seeing habit or for the trademark shirt outside the shorts and rolled-Martin O'Neill's decision to down socks as for his talent.

probably only happen to me."

Then he scored the last-gasp goal which settled the play-off final and swept Leicester into the Premiership. And for his next trick he buried the winner in the Coca-Cola Cup final to earn them a place in Europe. In his autobiography, the The self-deprecating Steve Claridge is Wolves' new folk hero. Phil Shaw reports.

his metamorphosis from journeyman to talisman. "The way my career's going," he said, "I'll sign for Manchester United on my 40th birthday."

In fact he will be 32 next week, a landmark he expected to reach either in the lower First Division or in limbo at Leicester. But Portsmouth, where he was on loan last month (he even followed them to Sunderland as a fan a fortnight ago), could not raise the £350,000 O'Neill wanted. Mark McGhee. un- a party and nicking the best girl,

rate, bought him on deadline day. Wolves, having used 35 players this season, bear an competition, we'd probably Birmingham when Claridge here earlier."

entertaining Tales From the served under Barry Fry. In Boot Camps. Claridge ex- those chaotic days, so many pressed delight and disbelief at players poured over a hill at training camp that he likened the scene to something out of Zulu. At Molineux, there are a staggering 12 strikers alone with senior experience.

> They include Steve Bull, the folk hero whose place in the pecking order appears to have been taken by the newcomer. Claridge confessed to feeling slightly guilty, as if he has jumped on someone else's bandwagon. "I'm Johnny-come-lately,"

he said. "It's like gatecrashing happy with his team's scoring though perhaps it's just as well I've arrived so late in Wolves' Cup run. With my record in this

pressed as Wolves' finest backto-goal forward since Andy... Mutch, is similarly self-mocking about his recent brushes with Arsenal. 'At Leicester we were 2-0 down when I was taken off ever, has been around too long and we drew 3-3," he recalled. to let professional respect spill Then at Highbury we were two down, I came off and we got one back. Not great omens. They're probably the most

Claridge, who has already im-

difficult opponents you could draw. Ask any striker which dewas talking to someone who knows Tony Adams very well and he said that Tony reckons he's what you want to hear!

"Their back four are all on very important job."

While Arsène Wenger's polyglot band have been busy-croding Manchester United's lead in the Premiership, Wolves' play off hopes hang by a thread. It looks like a mismatch. Claridge, howover into inhibiting fear.

"They wouldn't have been very impressed at all by us in the two matches I've played. But. nothing that's gone on before draw. Ask any striker which de-fence he'd rather not face and an occasion like this." It's a. it would probably be Arsenal. I cliché, I know, but anything can. happen in the Cup. If Wolves. played them 10 times, Arsenal would probably win nine. But playing better than ever not we have to believe that Sunday could be the one they don't-

each other's wavelength, but it's It has been "a strange old. not just them. The two lads in year," said Claridge, not to midfield who sit just in front of mention a strange old month. the defence. (Patrick) Vieira Given the way things tend to unexpected resemblance to have been out by now if I'd been and (Emannuel). Petit, do a happen when he is around, it could get far stranger yet.





Kendall waits for late fillip from Ferguson

rue the February day when he home to Aston Villa. said that a sound defeat had his flagging side.

On that occasion, the Everton manager said that being left at the bottom of the Premiership after some dismal results had shocked his side into performances that propelled them to a somewhat safer 13th.

This morning, as he considers Everton's position tivational captain and leading (fourth from bottom) and opponents (an improving Tottenham), he must be less than enthusiastic that the sustain-athrashing tactic will work again.

"I saw the white flag from some of my players last week play and he wants to play, but and I was bitterly disappoint- it's something that has to be tenham are likely to at least

"Afterwards I tried to debeen a good way to motivate fend the lads in public, but their heads dropped. I can't afford

to have that. "It's now up to me to select a side who can get us a result ing a few players, it must be

Kendali would dearly like to goalscorer, Duncan Ferguson, but must wait for tests on a knee injury. "That will be a very, very late decision," Kendall said.

Obviously I want him to

HOWARD KENDALL must to last weekend's 4-1 defeat at Either-Tottenham's or Everton's Premiership status may depend on their meeting today. Nick Harris looks at that contest and analyses the weekend's other matches

the long-term effects of another

"If Duncan is fit, it will give everyone a massive boost, but and if that means disappoint- it will be a decision only made after a chat between myself, the medical people and Duncan."

Teenagers Richard Dunne be able to select his side's mo- and Gavin McCann could both come into the reckoning, but Kendall will be wary of using too many youngsters in such an important game.

Today's fixture is no less important for the home side, but after last week's morale boosting win at Crystal Palace, Toted," he said yesterday, referring considered carefully because of start the game with the greater

not only had 23 senior players tate things ourselves rather said yesterday. in training this week - more than in any week since he arsult for you." rived at the club in November - he will also definitely recall

"It has been a new experience for me," said Gross of his selection options, which also include Darren Anderton, Les Ferdinand and Steffen Iversen. The latter is not fully fit, but Anderton and Ferdinand may yet make it as far as the bench

the flamboyant David Ginola

after suspension.

this afternoon. "It is important that our des-

than hope other teams get a re-

One team who will be feelhad a hand in their futures this week are Leeds, who escaped unscathed from a plane crash.

Following the emergency crash landing at Stansted Airport on Tuesday morning. George Graham is hoping his team's football will not be unduly affected.

"We now have to try and put that behind us and get on with our season. A European spot tiny is in our own hands," is still up for grabs, so we have some good fortune soon. If

confidence. Christian Gross Gross said. "We prefer to die- to be positive and go for it." he

Monday night's 3-0 defeat at West Ham came as a surprise after 4-0 and 5-0 victories over ing rather fortunate that fate Blackburn and Derby respectively, but Graham hopes that a result in the Yorkshire derby against relegationthreatened Barnsley today will maintain the challenge for a

Uefa Cup place. Barnsley, who saw three 3-2 defeat against Liverpool and who then lost in midweek to a late Blackburn winner, must feel that they are due

ing from their Stansted ordeal. today might be the day that Barnsley finally manage to pull clear of the bottom three, how-

With Crystal Palace not playing again until next weekend, the only other team that can make progress from the reiegation zone are Bolton, who travel to Wimbledon.

Despite losing 1-0 in midweek to Arsenal, the Wanderers still believe they can avoid the drop. The South African defender Mark Fish was espemen sent off in last week's cially pleased with the midweek game in light of what he sees as the Gunners' Premiership credentials.

"I thought Arsenal were very good and had the look of Uefa Cup places.

Leeds have problems recover- champions, but I also believe we are capable ourselves and that we can stay in the Premiership," he said.

That notion that will be given more credibility if they can come away with a result today against opponents who have struggled themselves recently, and whose 0-0 draw with Newcastie in midweek did little but illustrate that they are not clear of danger yet.

Elsewhere the Premiership has a distinctly mid-table flavour, with Southampton travelling to Sheffield Wednesday, and Leicester playing hosts to Coventry. West Ham's game at Aston Villa and Chelsea's at Derby tomorrow are notable mainly for the visitors' chase for

Aston Villa v West Ham

Aston Villa will be encouraged by the availability of striker Savo Milosevic for today's game. The Yugoslavian international, enjoying a renaissance at Villa Park under the new manager John Gregory, returns to the squad after missing last weekends 4-1 win at Everton through suspension and could be part of a three-man attack along with Dwight Yorke and Julian Joachim. Gregory has secured four Premiership wins in five games since he took over from Brian Little and is likely to continue with an unchanged side for today, apart from perhaps in-

Andy Impey has recovered from a groin strain to return to West Ham's squad. The Hammers also welcome back Steve Lomas and Frank Lampard, who both missed the 3-0 win over Leeds on Monday through suspension. Striker Paul Kitson is still troubled by his groin injury and will not play while goalkeeper Ludek Midosko is out with a calf injury. Harry Redknapp must decide whether to keep the same attacking formation as on Monday, or bring in Lomas, Larnpard or both. John Moncur is the most likely to be replaced as West Ham look stretch their Premiership unbeaten run to eight games. Striker John Hartson will be looking to complete a seasonal hattrick of braces against Villa, having scored against them twice in the Upton Park fixture in November and twice as the Hammers won 3-0 in the Coca-Cola Cup in October.



Leeds v Barnsley

Leeds' Australian international striker Harry-Kewell is likely to return to the side for today's Yorkshire-derby, after being forced to miss the 3-0 defeat at West Ham on Monday. A Fifa-enforced fiveday ruling (following complaints from the Australian FA after Kewell withdrew from a three-game friendly series with Brazil through injury) led to him watching the Upton Park match from the stands. Centre-back Lucas Radebe sempletes a two match ban, while cap-tain David topic persons and a win today would sement their European apparations and take them to fourth emership.

in the state ship. Barrisley manager Danny Wilson, knowing a win might take his side out of the relegation zone, should have a full complement of strikers to choose from today Jan-Aage Fjortoft is fit again after missing Tuesday's 2-1 defeat at Blackburn with flu, while John Hendrie is available following five weeks out with ankle ligament damage. Clint Marcelle, who suffered double vision and needed an overnight stay in hospital following a bang on the head during the game at Ewood Park, is likely to be on the bench. Centre-back Arjan de Zeeuw may come into contention after just 60 minutes of first-team play in the last seven weeks due to a nagging groin injury. Fellow defenders Peter Markstedt (neck) and Ales Krizan (knee) are still missing.



×4.

-

Leicester v Coventry

Leading scorer Last season: 0-2

Leicester midfielders Neil Lennon and Muzzy Izzet face late fitness tests on ankle injuries before the Midlands derby against in-form Coventry at Filbert Street. Northern Ireland international Lennon is the most doubtful starter, having been hurt in the 2-0 defeat at Bolton last weekend, but Izzet is expected to return after serving a twomatch suspension. The Foxes are still without Steve Walsh and lan-Marshall but striker Tony Cottee (calf) comes into contention for a place today after proving his fitness in a reserves game. Leicester's recent form (including three consecutive defeats in their last three matches) has seen them fall well out of contention for a European place next season, but they remain the only Premiership side

to have beaten Coventry at Highfield Road this season. Coventry go into today's game with the best recent form in the Premiership - seven League wins in their last eight games and an unbeaten speil of 12 matches in all. Manager Gordon Strachan is likely to drop leading scorer Dion Dublin into his emergency defensive role again to counter Leicester's aerial threat this afternoon. If so, it could mean a first-team recall for Romanian international striker Viorel Moldovan, with either Richard Shaw or Gary Breen making way for Dublin at the back. England Under-21 international Marcus Hall, who is still suffering with a calf strain, is Strachan's only major injury doubt for today's game.

LEADING SCORERS

(Kilon Link)

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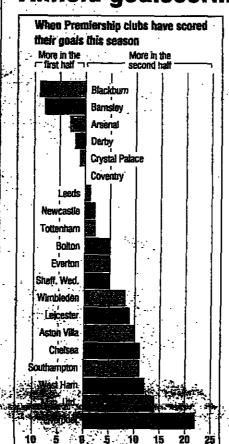
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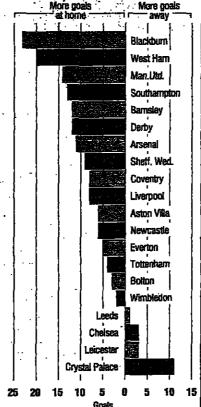
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Los FA CC Eur Oth Tot

...And statistics

How Liverpool maintain an Anfield goalscoring tradition





Where Premiership clubs have scored

their goals this season

live up to the achievements of their predecessors of the 1970s and 1980s, Roy preserve at least one of the great Anfield It always used to be said that Liverpool never knew when they were heaten. Their capacity for scoring late and decisive goals was legendary. This season, on home soil in particular. Liverpool have made a habit of coming good in the second half. Of their 54 Premiership goals in scored after the interval. Fitty-six per cent of all Premiership goals this season have been scored in the second half. Twenty -one per cent have been scored in the last 15 minutes. In particular, most successful teams tend to score more goals later in the game, Manchester United (14 more than in the first half) and West Ham (12) are the next two most successful second-half teams behind Liverpool, Indeed, of the Premiershio's too seven teams

of their goals this season, it was scored in the second half.

On average Tottenham have scored their home goals

Leeds have scored 22 goals at Eliand Road but have

earlier than any other team. Away from home they score

their goals later than anyone else. The earliest of

yet to score in the first 30 minutes of a home game.

15 minutes of matches than any other Fitty-eight per cent of Premiership goals this season have been scored by home learns, though four sides - Leeds, Cheisea, Leicester and Crystal

only Blackburn and Arsenal

have scored more goals in

Goals scored this season

beyond the 75th minute

Leady

Leicester

Evertivo -

Aston Villa

further, Manchester United have scored more times (17) in the last.

the first half than in the

This season's average of 2.65 goals per game is exactly the same as the previous Premiership best

of five years ago. Until the late 1960s the old First
Division regularly averaged more than three goals or
more per game. The highest rate of scoring was 3.73

Only Cheisea have scored more away goals than
Manchester United, but the earliest goal scored away by
Alex Ferguson's team was in the 29th minute at Goodison

Average time of home goals Average time of away goals 4N 1 16 Leeds 13 40.5 41.2 Barnsiev 12 Crystal Palace 43.5 42.5 Crystal Palace :11 43.8 Coventry 42.9 42.9 46.1 Everton 46.6 Blackburn 45.6 West Ham 46.8 Southamptor 46.6 47.B Wirehieden 49.3 49.8 Manchester United 49.9 Liverpool Newcastie 50.4 49.9 Aston Villa 52.8 51.6 Arsenal Chelsea 53.2 Wimbledor 51.D 54.1 52.9 Coventry Leicester 57.9 Aston Villa

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW T

Home

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Sheff Wed v Southampton

Leading scorer



Sheffield Wednesday's Gode Sedloski is likely to make his home debut. The Macedonian will partner Des Walker at the heart of defence, allowing Andy Hinchcliffe to switch from the three-man back line to his usual spot at left-bads, Italian striker Francesco Sanetti will be a surprise inclusion in the squad if his international clearance arrives in time. The 19-year-old impressed Pon Athinson in training, but Athinson is likely to rely on his two other Italians. Benito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio, to help Andy Booth in attack. Petter Rudi (hamstring) is out for a fourth game in a row. England Under-21 striker Kevin Davies returns to Southampton's squad for the first time in two months. He is expected to be

named on the substitutes' bench with Norwegian striker Egil Ostenstad and David Hirst continuing in attack. Kevin Richardson returns. Carlton Palmer serves a one-match ban. Hen Monkou is recalled after missing last weekend's 2-1 win against Newcastle through suspension. Midfielder Matthew Oakley is doubtful with a twisted linee while David Hughes is battling to recover from a



Leading scorer



David Ginola returns to the Tottenham team for todays match against Everton, Spurs' second consecutive relegation six-pointer following their 3-1 win at Crystal Palace last week. The influential Frenchman missed last week's game through suspension. England hopefuls Darren Anderton and Les Ferdinand are both in contention for a place on the bench after recovering from injury. Christian Gross' side are now three points clear of the bottom three, having played the same

Howard Kendall will make a late decision on the fitness of captain Duncan Ferguson. The Scottish striker could return if he recovers from a knee ligament injury. Lendall could bring in on-loan winger Peter Beagne, after the 32-year-old began his second Goodison Park. career as a late substitute in last week's 4-1 home deleat to Aston Villa. Slaven Bilic and Carl Tiler are both still suspended, but I endall could play teenager Richard Dunne alongside veterans Dave Watson and Craig Short, Another teenager, midfielder Gavin McCann. may make a full debut after five substitute appearances.

Wimbledon v Bolton



Wimbledon will be without their ex-England under-21 defender Ben-Thatcher again for this relegation game against Bolton. The former Millwall player may be out for a fortright with a ruptured thigh muscle. The Dons welcomed back defender Dean Blackwell in their midweek 0-0 draw against Newcastle following his recent injury and he is expected to continue again today. Wimbledon have won just one Premiership game in their last five, but they have a five-point cushion to the relegation zone and have a game in hand on all the

Bolton manager Colin Todd has to decide whether to pick. \$2.5m. striker Dean Holdsworth, who has not scored since October, or on-loan striker Bob Taylor for today's match. Taylor was preferred to Holdsworth in Bolton's 2-0 win against Leicester last week when the former replaced the latter, who was taken off after just 30 minutes of the game. Todd is also missing defenders Gerry Taggart, who has a groin strain, Mike Whitlow and Robbie Elliott, who will both be out for the rest of the season.

Der BY PENElsea

Leading scorer Last season: 3-2



are

Robbie van der Laan (ankle) could make his first Derby appearance since October. The Dutch midfielder could replace Darryl Powell, the latest recruit to Jamaica's World Cup campaign, who damaged an ankle at Coventry last Saturday and could be out for a month. Igor Stimac is suspended, so Gary Rowett is likely to replace him. Jim Smith also has to decide whether to recall goalkeeper Mart Poom and the Italian Stefano Eranio. Poom missed the defeat at Coventry with a shoulder injury and Eranio was out with a hamstring tear, but both have been training this week. Striker Dean Sturndge is likely to be recalled after completing a two-match ban and Lars Bohinen makes his Pride Park, debut after his move from Blackburn.

Dmitri I hanne's likely return in goal for Chelsea will be one of a series of changes Gianluca Vialli will make to his Chelsea side following their tining 1-0 defeat in the Cup-Winners' Cup on Thursday. Tore Andre Flo and Mark Hughes seem certain to replace Vialli and Gianfranco Zola up front, while Frank Sinclair, Jody Morns, Danny Granville, Laurent Charvet and David Lee could all feature.

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15 P Alcock16 1 49 54 3.38	15 Man Utd 32 0 53 53 166
16 G Ashby16 2 42 52 3.25	16 Leicester 30 2 38 48 160
17 D Gallagher16 2 42 52 3.25	17 Spurs31 1 44 49 158
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Saturday 4 April 1998 ■

One Man's death overshadows National

Racing

By Richard Edmondson

THE Grand National will not be the same today. The world's greatest steeplechase will be run at Liverpool under a pall following the death of Britain's most notable jumping horse.

One Man died at Aintree yesterday. The successor to Desert Orchid as a great grey which bestrode the National Hunt scene broke a leg and had to be destroyed. His death cast a cloud over the whole meeting.

The Mumm Melling Chase had been characterised by One Man's trademark extravagant vaulting until the field reached the ninth fence. The grey put in a short stride and crashed sideways through the final obstacle of his career. Ominously, the screens were immediately erected around the stricken body.

"It was an extremely serious fracture, an unmendable fracture and for that reason he was put down on humane grounds," Paul Webbon, chief veterinary adviser to the Jockey Club, said. "There are two possibilities. The force of take-off could have caused it, but it's more likely it was the way he landed over the fence.

Brian Harding. One Man's jockey, returned to the weighing room in tears, and his owner. John Hales, whose company produces the Teletubbies toys, had to be helped sobbing into a first aid room. "I can't say anything," he said. "I'm too devastated." The body of One Man will be taken back to Hales's Telford home for burial.

Man's 67-year-old trainer, has Liverpool." been ill and was making his first for a month, His son Nicky said:





Black Friday: One Man's jockey, Brian Harding (left), returns to the weighing room after the death of his horse in the Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree yesterday; shortly afterwards Ollie McPhail lies prone on the Photographs: John Giles/PA (left) and Julian Herbert/Alisport ground (right) after being thrown from Blue Cheek in the Foxhunters' Steeplechase at The Chair. McPhail was rushed to hospital but regained consciousness

Mr Hales and after he's spoken to him he is going to go home."

David Nicholson, another leading trainer, said: "He was a lovely horse, the trainer's favourite. He rode him out and adored him. It's terribly sad for Gordon Richards, One all concerned and it's spoilt my

One Man was the highest visit to a racecourse yesterday money-earner in National Hunt training. The one big prize that "This is the worst day ever. Dad had eluded him was a Chelis very upset. He is going to see tenham win, but only two weeks. I wasn't able to use his jump-horses fell, eight unseated their

Champion Chase at the National Hunt Festival.

Richard Dunwoody, the for-Man's regular pilot until this year. "He was one of the best two and a half mile chasers I ever rode," Dunwoody said. "He had a lovely way about him and he was a brilliant ride. When I was holding him up at

ago he won the Queen Mother ing. But on the last occasion at riders, one was brought down and was compounded when the lice patrol at 4am found the bag. half to clear the security queue. Cheltenham he showed just how brilliant he could be."

Tony McCoy, the champion mer champion jockey, was One jockey, said: " Everyone in racing is gutted. He was a special horse, a bit like Desert Orchid."

One Man's race was not run However, the race which was, the Foxhunters' Chase, saw one horse, Fantastic Fleet, killed and Cheltenham in the Gold Cups others suffer appalling falls. Six fuel for their arguments.

one refused. One jockey, Ollie but regained consciousness on his

way to hospital.

Yesterday's events will reignite the debate over whether the sport's death toll is unarover the National's fierce fences. ceptably high. Animal rights protestors are a regular feature of the National and those who attend today will have further

County Stand had to be cleared McPhail, suffered head injuries after the third race, raising the spectre of 12 months ago when the Saturday National had to be and boots of all vehicles will be abandoned following bomb searched on arrival today and warnings from the IRA. On this occasion, though, the evacua-

> fault in a fire alarm. Earlier in the day there had been a controlled explosion in the weighing room following the

which transpired to have been left behind by a jockeys' valet - race is likely to be Rough Quest,

The engine compartments through one of 55 airport-style tion was caused by a technical archways and X-ray machines placed around the course.

Up to 60,000 people are expected and they could bring chaos. At the peak point yester-A miserable day at Aintree discovery of a briefcase. A po- day it was taking an hour and a

The favourite for today's horse since Red Rum to win the race twice. Last year's runnerup, Suny Bay, is attempting to become the first grey since 1961 to win the race. The grey in most racing people's minds today. however, will be the one that

perished on Aintree's fields. One Man tribute, page 18 National guide, pages 16-17

Nothing but best will do for England

By Chris Hewett

CLIVE WOODWARD has repeatedly requested that his home, so the same could England side be judged only by the highest available standards, so anything less convincing than a 50-point bullying of Ireland at Twickenham this afternoon their occasional hellfire specshould leave the coach and his taculars. "We'll do our very charges open to a verbal assault of Alf Garnett proportions. Perhaps that realisation led Woodward to trumpet the then. England have rattled along visitors' chances of turning Five at an average 37 points a match Nations expectation on its head; during the current championship certainly, he was more upbeat and they need another 32 to surabout the Irish yesterday than pass the record 141-point agthe Irish had been about

coach, had appeared on the verge of catching the first flight back to Dublin. "We lost 46-6 last season and that was at happen this time," he said, descending into a world-weary tone hardly designed to inspire his team into delivering one of best to get close to England, but they're a quality side."

Not much point turning up. gregate they achieved, partly at Ireland's embarrassed expense. Spectacularly so, in fact, last year, Just the 32? The way Twenty-four hours earlier. Gatland has been telling it this

marker before you can say "Conor McGuinness". But Gatland is a New

Zealander - an All Black tourist, indeed - and rugby men of that stamp do not lose games in advance. John Mitchell. England's assistant coach, knows Gatland better than most, for in his previous incarnation as a mean-eved however, that the Irish for-North Island forward, he played something like 100 provincial games alongside him in a feared and formidable Waikato pack. If Woodward was in danger of falling for the kiwi-tinged blarney. Mitchell has successfully disabused him.

"Unless we are absolutely at our best we will lose this game." Woodward pronounced with missionary zeal. "I look at that

would be happy to have many of them in our squad. Therefore, the initial aim is to win this one by whatever means come to direct route if it brings success. We have to be aware that if they get going up front, we could be in for a nasty surprise."

Woodward knows full well.

wards can get going all they like and still find themselves impaled on the pointed end of a sharp stick. For all the industrious qualities purveyed by Paul Wallace, Paddy Johns, David Corkery and the inspirational Keith Wood, who must be one of the few Harlequin captains never to have played at Twickenham, it is desperately difficult to win international matches

least average ability.

More than one Irish forward has pointed out that the visitors might easily have reached Lonhand and I really don't mind the don with three tournament wins nestling in their kitbags rather captain, said this week: "I than three defeats weighing heavily on their minds.

And there is merit in the argument, to be sure; a one-point loss to Scotland was followed by the most glorious of two-point defeats in Paris and had Ireland made anything like the most of their first-half possession against Wales, there could have year's World Cup, Catt has been only one winner.

Sadly, the Irish backs seem incapable of making the most of anything. Nowhere near quick enough in midfield, their indecision tends to be final on the rare occasions they create half a yard of room for themselves and, as a result, they crave contact rather than space. If all 15 Englishmen were to be sent off this afternoon, the visitors would spend the rest of the game running into the referee.

In the light of a back-line supremacy of vast proportions, Woodward may well be justified

wood, the Irish outside-half, will not hesitate to pepper Bath's resident South African with all manner of high, hanging Garryowens, but as Wood, the Irish toured South Africa with Mike

last summer and he's perfectly comfortable in any position. If England can turn Austin Healey into a quality wing, as they clearly have. I've no doubt they can do the same with Mike."

Assuming Jeremy Guscott has committed himself to next next to no chance of breaking into the side as an outside centre. The No 10 berth is also becoming log-jammed, what with Paul Grayson's form, Jon Wilkinson's startling emergence as an international outside-half in waiting and Alex King's return to fitness. Suddenly, in the space of a week, it looks like wing or nowhere for England's

Mr Versatile. If only Ireland had access to such a luxury as Catt, who would sleepwalk into their side at outside-half, centre, wing or full-back. Brian Ashton, a con-

Kick-off: 2.0 (Sky Sports 2)

fled Dublin for Somerset after the first of this season's Five Nations torments and given his passion for ambitious, wideranging, perpetual-motion rugby, it remains a surprise that he lasted as long as he did. Five Nations' Championship, page 22

takes **YOU** to the action **FRANCE '98** England v Tunisia England v Romania

England v Colombia Scotland v Brazil Holland v Belgium

Italy v Austria France v Saudi Arab Last 16 Quarter Final

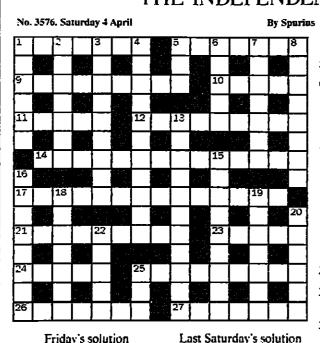
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Do the same as Norman and Co? (7) Rough stuff you get from bestial males? (7) Need re-write of scene it's wanted by end

of July (9) Old bellringer giving dirty look when Pastor enters (5) Vegetable — beet, by the sound of it (5)

Type of school getting ready to receive pupils? (3-6) Given chance to go to London, means to set They'll clean up and

make a handsome pile 21 No pain, no gain for its manufacturers (9) 23 One having to lie about second attempt

at exam (5) Here in parts of Beigium monarch is more ionnai (5) locked up? (5-4)

Ruler making mark in

3 B

In church having forty winks and something to nibble! (6)

Part of aircraft produced in a small room in New England (7) Take out a continental nov-

el and two articles in English (9) Places you'd expect to find

the umbrella pine" (4-7) Starts to bowl one yorker that's terrific! (3) Girl in trouble, turning up after church (5) Price one found in torn

book, second issue (7) Flower girl almost made off clutching ring (8) Old County Councillor initially eager to accommodate new screen projection

15 Item found on desk, monograph excerpt (5-4) Cause for celebration (8) 18 Practical approach one's encountered in the field (7)

Give back balance left on deposit (7) 20 Way a trade union's achieving position of influence?

Eat too much Cheddar? (5) Salad ingredient — bit of celeriac, ostensibly (3)

in giving Mike Catt a first ever noisseur of back play if ever

ENGLAND) V	IRELAND 7
M Perry	de	nham
M Perry Bath	15	C ClarkeTerenun
M Catt	14	R Wallace
W GreenwoodLeicester	13	K MagesBristo
J GuscottBath	12	M McCall ondon Iris
A HealeyLexcester	11	D Hickie St Mary
P GraysonNorthampton	10	E Elwood Galwerian
M DawsonI Jorthampton	9	C McGuinness St Mary
J Leonard Harlequins	Ì	R Corrigan Greystone
R CockerillLecester	2	K Wood Harlemans can
D GarforthLecester	3	P Wallace Saracen
M JohnsonLecester		P JohnsSaracen
G Archer Newcastle		M O'KellyLondon tris
L DallaglioWasps, capt	6	D Corkery Bristo
N Back Lexcester	7	A WardBallynahind
T Diprose		V CostelloSt Mary
Replacements: lé P de Glanville	-	
(Bath); 17 J Wilkinson (Newcastle); 18		Replacements: 16 K Keane (Garry owen): 17 D Humphreys (Linsh): 18
S Benton (Gloucester): 19 D Ryan		B O'Mears (Cork Constitution): 19 P
(Newcastle): 20 D Grewcock (Sara-		Clohessy (Young Munster); 20 A
cers); 21 G Rownzree (Leicester); 22 D West (Leicester).		Clarke (Northempton); 21 M Gal
•		wey (Starmon); 22 E Miller (Laicester)
Referee: D Bevan (Wales)		Kick-off: 2.0 (Sky Sports 2)

ENCLAND DELAND

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Causda Square, Canary Wuarf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Warford Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Substity - April 1994



()URMONEY

Personal finance, motoring and property

Saturday 4 April 1998

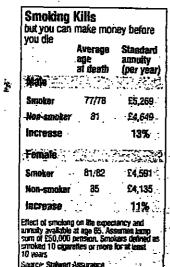
Living beyond your genes

Paul Slade explains how reports of the death of actuaries' tables have been somewhat exaggerated

A new science fiction film, whose DNA suggests they are Gattaca, shows a society where at high risk of serious disease. genetic testing can determine people's lifespan at birth. In real its to what DNA sampling life, insurers don't find things alone could tell insurers - no ouite that simple

Although DNA testing may technology may become. play a part in life insurance past mortality statistics to control the risk they accept.

Making DNA testing a part of underwriting would create a whole web of moral problems. High-risk groups already pay a higher premium for their life and health cover under the existing system. Some fear genetic testing would take this a huge step forward, allowing insurers to refuse applications from anyone



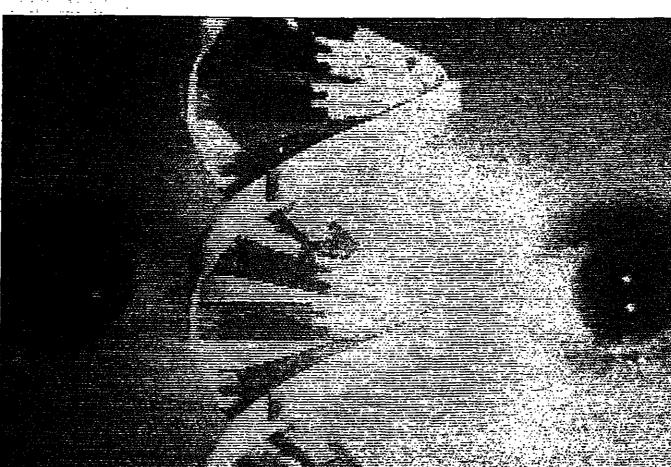
In any event, there are limmatter how sophisticated the

Paul Greenwood, research underwriting soon, insurers actuary at William M Mercer, have so far relied on tables of says: "You'd still have some statistical averages coming into it. What you don't know, looking two or three years ahead, is how harsh the winter is going to be, which still seems to have an effect [on mortality]. You also don't know whether the long-term improvement in mortality is going to speed up or slow down."

Nigel Masters, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand, sounds a similar note of caution. He says: "Within the actuarial profession, there's considerable debate over whether DNA testing is going to be of any great use at all.'

The closest actuaries can come to forecasting a particular individual's age at death is to calculate the age at which his or her chance of still being alive is 50/50. For a man aged 30, this would be the age at which statistics suggest only half of today's 30-year-old men will still be alive. The first table shows where this age falls for various age groups.

For actuaries, the single biggest determinant of when you are going to die is when



Only in science fiction can DNA tests determine lifespans at birth.

Illustration: Mehau Kulyk/Science Photo Library

only indicates that you will share some of the same risk factors as your parents. The actual outcome in your own case may be very different.

Mr Masters says: "Your family may have weak hearts but, if you keep fit and don't eat any fatty foods, that may never be a problem for you. If your your parents died. But this father died of lung cancer, but people your age can, on aver. Assuming he survives to 45, he

you don't smoke, you're probably OK."

All actuaries like him can do is took at large groups of roughly comparable people and say what the average age of death for that group might be. Any real death in the group may fall 30 years or more after the average. But the fact that

age, hope for another 40 years can then look forward to will not help you if you fall

under a bus tomorrow. The good news is that, the longer you live, the longer you example, figures from the Government Actuary show that a man of 40 can expect to live for another 35.96 years.

Expected are of death

another 31.31 years.

In other words, he has lived for a full five years, but reduced his future life expectancy by can expect to go on living. For only 4.65 years - a "profit" of 128 days. This effect continues throughout life. Even the average 105-year-old, simply by virtue of having made it that far, can exped to enjoy two more birthdays.

A better deal for smokers? Only if you are ready to die sooner

smokers show the effect of smoking on life expectancy. Paradoxically, though, this is one smokers. A smoker of 66 cm expect to die three overall health is assessed on a points system. case where smokers actually get a better deal. or four years sooner than a non-smoker the

When you hav an annuity, the insurer agrees to trade the lump sum from your pension for a Stalwart annuity of £5,269 for a male smok-weight, you'd have to be something like 25 a flow of income which will last the rest of your er aged 65, against just £4,649 for the equivlife. The longer you are expected to live, the alent non-smoker. thinner the available cash must be spread, and the lower the annual income will be.

Sa just how

guad is

Figer Woods

STORT BEGIN OF PLCES

ction...

Stalwart has realised that this means it can or suffer from conditions such as high blood give smokers higher annual payouts than nonsame age. A lump sum of £50,000 would buy

The company offers similar enhanced

pressure. In these cases, the applicant's

Cathy Horsley, Stalwart's marketing manager, says: "To qualify just for being overper cent above the average for your height. But what might happen is that you're quite overweight, and have high blood pressure. rates to people who are grossly overweight. and the two together would qualify you."

Men			Women	•	
Age now	Age (Smakers	of death Non-smokers	Age now		ot death Non-smakers
20	71	76	20	74	82
30	71	76	30	74	82
40	72	77	40	74	82
50	73	78	50	75	83
60	75	79	60	77	84
70	79	82	70	80	86
80	85	27	80	85	89
Source: Coop	ers & Lybrand				

Over here Vanguard, a US fund manage-

ment company, announced this week that it is to offer its services in Europe. Its move is likely to lead - in the long-term - to cheaper fund management costs over here. Jonathan Davis Column: Page 5.

Revving up

Canadian

Canada Life, the mutual life assurance company with more than 500,000 policyholders, of

which 100,000 are in the UK,

announced this week that it is to demutualise, with payouts to

£2,200 each. No date has been

fixed for the conversion, which

is not expected until next year.

The shares will be quoted on

The flotation raises the stakes among UK mutual

insurers which have steadfastly

refused to contemplate a stock

market listing. Among those thought suitable for florations

or ripe for takeover are

Provident Institution.

of Norwich Union

Healthcare. The survey

shows that two-thirds of

employees don't protect

their incomes in the event of long-term sickness,

trusting their employers to

look after them. Yet only 6

surveyed offer such income

protection, NU Healthcare

per cent of employers

has a free information sheet. Call 0800 400123.

Friends Provident, Scottish

Provident, Scottish Widows.

Liverpool Victoria and National

Wage worries

Britain's workers risk losing about £5.5bn in wages

every week, according to a study carried out on behalf

Toronto's Stock Exchange.

members worth an average

windfall

A new breed of super-scooters is hitting the UK. Gilera, an Italian subsidiary of Piaggio. makers of Vespa, has introduced an eye-catching 180cc machine, the Runner FX-R, offering ultra-powerful performance. A marginally more sedate version, the Hexagon, is also available. Page 9.

Scoring the best insurance deals

Insurers have been signing up top clubs to launch a range of financial products to the fans. Stephen McDowell reports

Asda and Sainsbury's might all be aiming to be among the new breed of financial services providers. Yet their efforts could soon be kicked into touch by a new breed of upstarts football clubs.

Clubs such as Derby County, West Ham and Nationwide first division leaders Nottingham Forest are among the first out of the financial services tunnel. The advantage to fans is that they can support their club by buying something as mundane as motor insurance. The advantage to the club is that it costs them nothing - and they get a chunk

of tree marketing to book At present, they only offer branded household and motor insurance. But this is seen as something of an experiment and, if it works, you could well see these and other big-name clubs offering a wider choice of financial products. In the longer term, some of them are hoping to expand by selling "off the shelf pensions, life assurance. insurance and investment products to their fans, or even offering them credit cards and loans.

The driving force behind the latest soccer-branded products comes from Direct Club Insurance Services, an insurance broking firm run by Phil Zeidler, which has set up a call centre much like any other

Marks & Spencers, Virgin, direct broker and for the past month has been steadily signing up Premiership and First Division clubs.

Other clubs have played with the idea. Crystal Palace, for example, had a stab at offering general insurance products to their fans with Palace Direct, via a brokerage called Torch.

As Mr Zeidler says, the idea has failed to take off on a large scale up to now. Part of the problem lies in that general insurance requires a combination of competitive rates and the ability to accept as large variety of insurance risks as possible - everything from ageing gannies to 18-year-old drivers. That generally precludes many insurance companies, leaving

the field to brokers. But, Mr Zeidler adds: "[The market] is so competitive that [profit] margins to the insurance broker are tiny, especially if you are giving money back to the club. You cannot make it work unless you can handle very large volumes of business. Only one club, even the big ones, would struggle on their own to make it work."

There has also been a certain shypess among clubs to get involved since one of Scotland's biggest clubs. Celtic, had its fingers very badly burned over its much publicised Ceitic PEP. Following on, as Mr Zeidler



intends to, from relatively successful sales of motor instrance, the club, with the backing of the Prudential, launched the Celtic PEP in 1996.

The club received commission from every fan who signed up and, within months, 20,000 of them did so. The PEP was sold by an independent financial adviser called Caledonian Investments which, in a further twist, was owned by Paul Goodwin, nephew of Celtic and Scotland footballing legend, the late Jock Stein.

However, within a few more months the Fraud Squad was called in after more than

£500,000 went missing from clients' funds. Mr Goodwin was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment last year for his part in the fraud.

"Football clubs are very cagey and very protective of their brands," says Mr Zeidler. "Especially since the Celtic affair. But very few of them are aware of their marketing power. Post the Taylor report in 1990 published the year after the Hillsborough disaster - there has been a change in the clubs and a change in the nature of the fans. Some 72 per cent of Premier League fans are in the ABC1 category now."

Manchester United, with one of the biggest fan bases of any club side in Europe, are a case in point. Some experts believe the club could make millions by diversifying into financial services. However, a spokeswoman says loftily: "Any link between financial services and Manchester United would be confidential

out for the Man Utd PEP, then. In insurance terms, said Mr Zeidler, there are underwriting advantages in that the affinity with a football club generates volume and repeat business and makes it worth while. Each time a policy is sold the club

and not for discussion," Watch

gets around £10. So far, 2.000 football fans have called Direct Club, which he operates, for quotes and more than 200 have signed up for some form of insurance cover.

But Mr Zeidler is holding back from persuading clubs to launch their own branded investment products. "That's where the money is," he said, "But it is more controversial and the clubs are a bit reluctant to do it. We retain the facility to be able to do it, however."

So, is insurance from football clubs good value? The answer is that it appears to be at least as competitive as mainstream cover from some big providers.

For a 30-year-old single professional man living in London and driving a three-year-old VW Golf without a no-claims bonus, Derby County quoted a fully comprehensive price of £728.28. This slotted roughly into the middle, with the highest - Guardian Direct - at £786.83 and the lowest, through the AA, at £638.02.

One of Direct Club's first customers was David Clayton. the promotional manager of Nottingham Forest, who put Mr Zeidler's claims to the test.

"To my surprise, my wife and I managed to save around £200 on our household insurance. which was a major saving for us. Professionally, this is good for the club too, it helps extend our brand and our range of services and enables us to give something back to the fans."

Stephen McDowell works at Financial Adviser'.

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PERSONAL FINANCE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

What's wrong with making a fast buck

accurately, is it possible for on your investment. If you an article to be published in this section with which I do it may be at the expense of not entirely agree? The an immediate capital gains answer to these questions tax liability. must be yes and no, judging by the appearance this week in the survey on investment trusts on pages 6 to 8.

The argument centres on whether it is always beneficial for investors when so-called "arbitrageurs" buy up shares in their investment trusts in the hope of making a swift killing. This happens when the "discount" - the difference between a trust's share price and the value of its assets - narrows significantly.

At present, there is an average discount of 12 per cent between them, meaning you get when I retire in a few can buy £1-worth of assets decades' time. The actual held by an investment trust for 88p. Arbitrageurs have it certainly won't be enough been snaffling up investment trust shares and forcing them habits). What interested me to "re-organise" - either wind were the mechanics of the exthemselves up and sell off the shares, or convert into unit breakdown of how much will trusts, or offer a cash opt-out - be paid should I choose to to those who want to sell up stop work early. Fascinating

so, they can add value to a save hard. trust's shares and, by implication, benefit smaller investors. Moreover, canny Retirement Pensions Foreinvestors who spot invest- cast unit, on 0191-218 7585. ment trusts where there is a and asking staff there to send huge (and recoverable) dis- you form BR19. count between the underlying

price, could also gain. All true. Except that what are likely to face higher 0800 776666.

Am 1 a despot? Or, more annual management costs opt to liquidate your shares,

Almost by definition, arbitrageurs are typically inof a piece by David Prosser and-out merchants, mostly interested in making a fast buck. Insofar as they have forced investment trusts to reorganise themselves for the henefit of all shureholders. well and good. However, smaller savers who are in for the longer-term may not always find themselves benefiting from their co-investors' money-making strategies.

A few weeks ago, I asked the Benefits Agency to tell me how much state pension I will result hardly matters (though to pay for all my expensive ercise, which even gives a and frightening stuff: it's David notes that in doing enough to want to make you

> You too can ask for a pension projection by calling the

Should you feel retireasset value and the share ment planning is worth investigation. The Independent is offering a free 26-page is not always considered is guide on the subject, sponwhether some of these sored by Eagle Star, a lowchanges are to the long-term cost personal pension probenefit of investment trust vider. The guide is, however, shareholders. For example, if genuinely independent. You you convert to a unit trust you can ask for one by calling

How to build on a basic pension

THE MAKEOVER Name: Eric Hamilton

Age: 54 Occupation: Mechanical engineer The problem: His principal concerns are the adequacy of income in retirement for himself and his wife. whether his wife should join the NHS Pension Scheme, planning for the possibility of long-term care. putting a money eside for grandchildren, and a PEP for his wife. The advice: Eric's wife should join the NHS scheme and also set up a corporate-bond PEP. The couple should also consider investing half their current building society balance in a distribution bond.

Eric Hamilton works for General Accident, the insurer about to merge with Commercial Union (CU). His wife, 50. is a part-time nursing assistant. The couple, who are in good health, have a married daughter, 23, a 21-year-old son at university and one grandchild.

Eric is a member of a noncontributory final salary pension scheme and, because of his very long service, at normal retirement at 60 he will be entitled to a full two-thirds pension. He has death-in-service benefits worth four-times salary, plus 50 per cent spouse's pension on his death. His wife, as a part-timer, has recently become eligible to join the NHS pension scheme, but they are not sure if it is one-eightieth of final salary per year of service, plus tax-free cash, and requires a member's contribution of 6 per cent. The adviser: David Holland, managing director at RK Harrison, independent financial advisers with offices throughout the UK. Head office: 19/21 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5AQ, 0171-929 9300.



worth while. The NHS scheme pays an outstanding Abbey National mort- ter he has cleared his mortgage debt. gage of £28,000. The loan is on an interest-only basis and Eric pays around a CU corporate-bond personal equity £150 per month interest, but this is reduced by an employer's mortgage subsidy to around £90 per month, plus the cost of four General Accident (GA) £3,000 payment. He intends to mainpolicies for terms ranging from 30 to 10 years. The estimated maturity value of the combined policies, maturing The advice: Eric and his wife jointly between 2000 and 2004, will be around

Eric is investing £100 per month into plan (PEP), currently worth £7,000, and has just started a Halifax tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) with a tain maximum Tessa payments, putting £9,000 in over five years.

He and his wife own a small number of shares, comprising GA, Halifax own a house worth £150,000, which has £100,000, leaving him with £72,000 af- and utilities, worth around £20,000, of small, some of the shares have per- a similar benefit for his wife.

and Britannia building societies, with

a current value of around £10,000. He also has a GA Portfolio Bond, into which he invested £10,000 in the with-profit fund, which has grown to £13,000. The couple's attitude to risk is in the middle, assuming cash deposits at one end and very high risk at the other.

Eric has spare income which would enable him to save £200 per month. Assuming he maintains his investments of £100 per month into the corporate-bond PEP and continues to make maximum payments into the Tessa, by 60 it is estimated he will have a fund of around £170,000, allowing for the surplus under the four maturing endowment policies. If applied to current annuity rates for a male aged 60, this will provide an initial gross pension of £10,080 plus 50 per cent widow's pension.

His wife should join the NHS scheme at the earliest opportunity, which will take 6 per cent of her salary. The employer is probably paying at least a further 7 or 8 per cent to the scheme as an average funding rate and, because she is above the average age for the NHS scheme, she will receive disproportionately greater value from it.

She should also contribute the maximum additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) of 9 per cent of her salary and explore the various options which are available. If there is a fixed-pension option, or even added years, this would generally be preferable to money purchase. due to current, very low annuity rates.

On the basis that Eric is happy to continue contributing to his corporatebond PEP, we would recommend his wife considers a corporate-bond PEP with Aberdeen Prolific Unit Trust Managers, which has marginally lower charges than CU's similar product, but would cost £63.28, or a single premium significantly better performance.

which £10,000 is represented by GA.

He and his wife have building soavailable to enable calculations to be ciety accounts with Bradford & Bingley made for potential capital gains tax (CGT), but these could easily be housed in the £6,800 allowance from 6 April.

Eric, however, does not wish to sell his portfolio and, since bed and-breakfasting is no longer viable following the Budget, he could consider a new manoeuvre which has been given the inelegant title of "bed and spousing". where one married partner sells shares and the other boys them back. Transfers between spouses are deemed not to have yielded either a profit or loss for CGT purposes. Alternatively, it would be possible to "bud and PEP". in effect selling the shares and then buying them back through a PEP.

With regard to the £10,000 in the two building societies, I would recommend at least £5,000 be invested in the Sun Life distribution bond, to maximise medium to long-term capital growth on a tax-efficient basis, with the prospect of taking a regular rising income at any stage in the future.

The highest instant access account on offer is through Northern Rock under its Save Direct Instant Postal Account, which currently offers 7.8 per cent, including a 0.25 per cent bonus.

For his grandchild, and possible future grandchildren, Eric could consider a friendly society investment where amounts up to £25 per month, or £270 per year, qualify for full tax exemption. Timbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society Bond offers reasonable charges, with good fund performance.

Should ill health strike before retirement, Eric would-probably have good protection through his pension scheme but he should check the rules.

If Eric and his wife wish to consider cover of, say £1,500 per month longterm care benefit, PPP Lifetime Care of £13,074, for Eric and £71.46 per While the current share portfolio is month, or £21.455 single premium, for

Spotlight: Interest Zone children's account from Coventry Building Society

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Building Society. The Deal: Get them young and

Minimum savings are £1, up to withdrawals.

The Product: Interest Zone a maximum of £5,000. Interest can children's account from Coventry be paid tax free on completion of a R85 form available from the

they are yours for life, as they say. This Plus Point: Coventry claims the new week it's the turn of Coventry, which rate makes this the UK's leading is offering 7.75 per cent gross on instant access account for children. savings in Interest Zone, the build- Unlike with some other kids' ing society's young people's account. accounts, there are no penalties on

Interest Zone "comes complete with passbook and a specially designed wallet", as the blurb says. There are no other freebies, just a top interest rate.

Drawbacks and Risks: Marketing experts argue that to win young people themselves over to a savings account, you must offer sweeteners - money boxes, stickers, magazines,

discount cards, CDs - to hook them in. They will remember you as they - so if you do not live within Covgrow older.

Coventry's no-frills product heads ably aimed at mums and dads opening accounts on their young children's behalf - though maybe kids in their early teens don't fall for all this naff stuff anyway.

The account is not postal-based, entry's base area (Sheffield to Oxford. Stourbridge to Milton in the opposite direction and is prob- Keynes and points in-between): you

can't sign up.

Marks out of five: Four. If you don't live in the area, try Britannia, Bradford & Bingley and Nationwide. They all have good rates.

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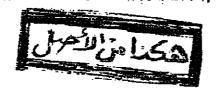
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A one-stop shop for information on the new ISAs

It was inevitable really if you will be a questions and anthink about it. MBO Partners, swers routing system to help the people behind netPEP, the you identify what kind of ISA UK's first web-based personal equity plan (PEP) and FTSE 100 tracker unit trust, have un- and, further on, identify which veiled their new website. It is ISA providers would offer called netISA.

Of course, it is not offering you the opportunity to invest in an Individual Savings Account yet. What the site does set out to provide is a one-stop shop, with all the information you need about the new taxefficient savings vehicle. It is vider that suits their needs." an admirable aim. The site does not yet succeed in ful-

filling it but it has made a start. ISA is a commentary, updated monthly, on developments in the run-up to the launch of the it is time to sack a money new accounts. There is a page showing you the Governcurrently shows an extract from the Budget speech and our investments' perforhas the text of the Budget press release on ISAs from the tunity to check your PEP Inland Revenue. In addition, there is a "press cuttings" page and a page of "your questions answered". You can submit questions using the site's feedback form.

create a page of links to other made a note of the old Secuwebsites with information rities and Investments Board about ISAs. So far, this consists of one link, to Autif, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds. Others will, no doubt, follow.

None of this comes free, You do not actually pay moncy but you are required to register to use the site, which means MBO Partners is buildbase of potential purchasers of its ISA when the time comes.

It is early days but the promise of useful things to come is there, including the prospect later this year of a

might suit your individual needs and investment aims

the best options for you. Richard Carswell of net-PEP claims: "We want to extend the efficiencies of the internet to would-be ISA investors in a way that 'reads their financial palms' to help route them to the ISA pro-

One useful point the site makes is that, as private investors, we tend to be rather What you can see on net-more long-suffering than is good for our financial health. Somehow, inertia sets in when manager. Now that PEPs do not have to be transferred into ment's pronouncements. This ISAs next April, there is no automatic prompt to review mance. So, take this opporperformance and, if your plan manager is a dud, switch!

Finally, another site that has had a serious face-lift recently is the top watchdog's, now the Financial Services The site also intends to Authority. Anybody who website will automatically find themselves looking at the FSA site. It subsumes all the infor-

mation on the old SIB site and has been redesigned to be easier to read. In addition, it details the other organisations which will shortly become part of the FSA and ing up a handy e-mailing data- there are links to other regulatory websites. The site will become more detailed as the legal framework is put in place later this year.

netISA: www.netisa.co.uk



A bullish feeling for highland art

After nosediving in the early 1990s, prices for Scottish Colourists are heading north once more

Why should the value of corny pictures of highland cattle have anything to do with a sophisticated portrait of a Girl in White?

The short answer is that both are by Scottish artists and that paintings by the four so-called Scottish Colourists, such as Samuel Peploe, who painted Girl in White in 1909, are leading prices for Scottish paintings highland cattle included - by the nose.

Those big-horned beasts may be dishevelled, mired and standing in the rain at the cheaper end of the market. But their unique selling point so obvious, but missed by art buffs who still make jokes about granny's sitting room as they pass them by in the Portobello Road - is that they are

And Scottish ethnic - don't ask me why - is more potent than English ethnic, at least in the art market. In London, Sotheby's and Christie's regularly pick out Scottish pictures consigned to their Modern Brit sales and bundle them off to their Scottish salerooms. They know that Scottish pietures in general have acquired an international following - among the rich MacWhatsits in America and the highland romantics on the Continent - whereas Modern Brits, apart from the big four (Spencer, Bacon, Auerbach, Freud), have not.

Even a watercolour of a sundrenched Spanish bullfighting scene not an image likely to appeal to an Aberdeen Angus - has been given a place in Sotheby's sale of Scottish pictures at Hopetoun House. West Lothian, on 20 April. It was painted by a Scot, Joseph Crawhall (1861-1913). Estimate: £15,000-£20,000. Scots wha' hae.

The Colourists are Scotland's big four: besides Peploe (1871-1935) there was John Fergusson (1874-1961), Leslie Hunter (1879-1937) and Francis Cadell (1883-1937). Dour



Small wonder, then, that collectors of Impressionist art - Americans. continentals and the Japanese (whenever they have any money) - have taken a shine to the Scottish Colourists. But try finding the Colourists' names, or even "Scottish Colourists", in art reference books published south of the border, and you will get some idea of how Sassenachs have sidelined Scottish art.

Impressionist prices, of course, lead the peaks and troughs of the art market. And now that Impressionist prices are creeping up again, following the recession, so are the prices of the Impressionistic Scottish Colourists and the prices of Scottish pictures in general. The ethnic dimension - expressed in the rise of Scottish nationalism - can only help boost the market.

Back in 1988, that Girl in White by Peploe fetched a sensational £506,000 at Christie's sale of Scottish Colourists in Glasgow - five-times estimate and

they were not. They are Britain's post-still the record price for a Scottish Impressionists - bright, vibrant and Colourist. It had been cunningly put on pre-sale view among French Impressionist paintings awaiting auction in London.

Christie's Alexander Meadowes had launched dedicated Colourist sales in Glasgow the previous year. His sumptuous hardback sale catalogues of Colourists were issued annually until after the crash of 1991. And what a crash it was. The Colourists went down the drain with the Impressionists. Prices halved. Christie's Colourist sales were axed.

But, like the Impressionists, they are making a comeback. Mr Meadowes resumed his Colourist sales in Glasgow last November, when 56 lots raised a total of £772, 707. A Peploe, Pink Azalea and Oranges, made £89,500. Not a patch on the hardback years, during which the 1988 sale raised £1.8m. But the sale was a 100 per cent sell-out.

Which leaves those woolly cattle a little less mired. Christie's next general sale of pictures in Scotland is not until 28 May in Edinburgh (when the only

known life-size portrait of John Brown. Queen Victoria's gillie, will be estimated £100,000 - £150,000) and Christie's Colourists not until 12 November in Glasgow, But at Sotheby's sale at Hopetoun House on 20 April there are some estimates for cattle-in-landscape paintings that can

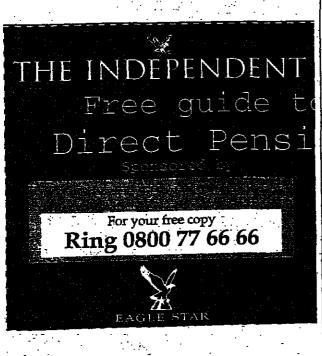
only be called bullish. In the Highlands - big, 50in by 40in - by one of the leading painters of highland cattle. Louis Hurt (1856-1929), is estimated £20,000-£30,000. Three years ago, £12,000-£18,000 might have been expected. Two similar but smaller paintings of Hurt's are estimated £3,000-£5,000 and £3,000-£4,000. Only £2,000-£3,000 would have been hoped for three years ago.

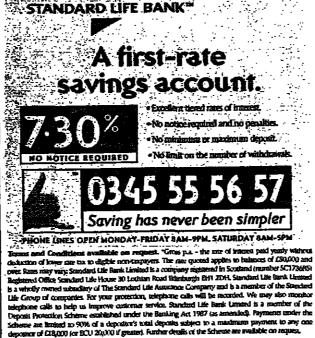
At Christie's general picture sale in Edinburgh last November, a magnificent Breanski made £32.200 - above the £20,000-£30,000 estimate. And a 20in by 30in Hurt - similar to the one being offered by Sotheby's - made £19,550, well above its £8,000-£12,000

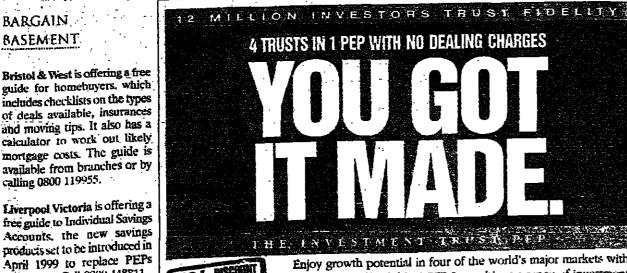
William Watson (flourished 1866-1900, died 1921). His prices have begun to move up only in the past year. He is less atmospheric than Hurt, but his Highland Cattle Watering is estimated £4,000-£6,000. A year ago, Sotheby's would have been happy to get £3,000-£5,000 for it.

The painting to watch is the Peploe Still Life With Apples of about 1925. which is estimated £40,000-£60,000. That is what it might have fetched 10 years ago. Are prices for the Colourists nearing their peak? Not yet. The sign of that happening will be when Peploes in the £250,000-plus price range start to venture into the saleroom. Until then, unless the economy drags the market down, as it did last time - which is unlikely - prices will continue to head north. So should you.

Sotheby's Scottish Pictures sale is at Hopetoun House, South Queensferry, West Lothian on Monday 20 April (6pm). Inquiries (0171-293 5000) and from 18 April (0131-319 1424/5). On the coat-tails of Hurt there is Christic's Scotland (0141-332 8134).







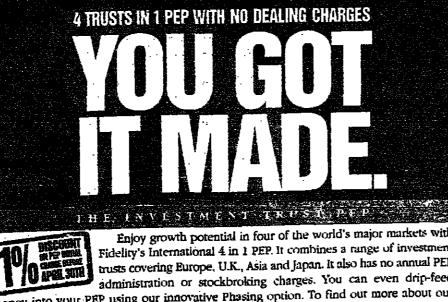
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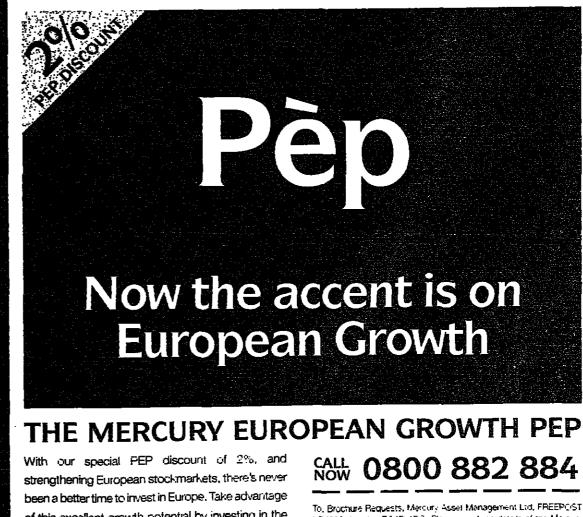
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BRIAN TORA

Selling investment trusts

responses to this column. It shows that someone is at least reading what I write. A recent column prompted the newly sociation of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) to corner me at a dinner. The upshot was an invitation to lunch this trade body to discuss the

ement of his resignation. did not invest in equities. The returns to their shareholders. process of transformation into the equity-based, actypical today was gradual.

to finance entrepreneurial fact that the day of the traventures in the developing ditional, general trust may world. Railways and South have passed. America both featured as investment projects. But they A new tax year - new opporbecame more staid and, anyway, along came unit trusts take out our 1998/99 PEPs, with their greater flexibility add another year's subscripand sales-led culture.

trusts have endeavoured to on shares, comfortable in the defend their corner against knowledge that any tax will not unit trusts on the basis of be payable for nigh on two superior performance. In this. Mr Hart took a tried and investments look a must for tested line, but it is arguable investment capital. You would that it is irrelevant now. mentioned before, have the is concentrated at the end of advantage of lower charges, the tax year. Why not act early a fixed capital - with no in- this year, beat the crowd and flows and no outflows of cash with which to cope - and the ability to borrow to enhance portfolio performance.

I rather enjoy receiving vestor, the fact that the underlying assets may have done rather better than a comparable unit trust is of little comfort if the cash incumbent PR lady of the As- value of your investment has performed less well. When discounts widen, this is precisely what happens.

Some in the industry with the director-general of believe the AITC should be promoting more vigorously image of investment trusts. those aspects of investment Unfortunately, Michael Hart's trusts that are not so readily letter to me arrived on the available through unitised same day as the announc- vehicles, such as the ability to invest in unquoted situa-It is worth remembering tions. The illiquidity that the why investment trusts were absence of a market for established in the first place. shares creates makes unlisted The oldest in existence, For- and smaller stocks generally eign & Colonial, is actually unsuited for unit trusts, the trust which Mr Hart ran whereas an investment trust - and most successfully too. can take a longer view. Wit-It was originally formed as an ness the way 3i and Electra investment company which have delivered impressive

As before. I wish the movement well. Whoever tively-managed fund that is takes over the hot seat would be best advised to emphasise Some investment trusts the positive differences these started their life as vehicles trusts enjoy and reflect on the

tunities. From Monday we can tion to our Tessas - or take out Traditionally, investment a new one - and take profits years. Both these tax-efficient be amazed how much of the Investment trusts, as I have PEP and Tessa buying power gain a full-year's tax benefit?

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee Yet, if you are an in- at Greig Middleton.

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CTD/15

Vanguard manoeuvres to open up Europe



DAVIS COLUMN

it, but one of the most interesting news stories of the week was the announcement the US fund management company global fund management scene. Vanguard is preparing to try to break into the European market.

It is in the process of getting fund company. final regulatory approvals to market a series of offshore funds, based in Dublin. Initially, its aim is to try to win a chunk of the growing institutional JONATHAN pension fund market in the UK, Netherlands and Belgium.

Well, you may say, so what? The firm has no immediate plans to launch a unit trust or Ocic in the UK, although it will be surprising if they do not do so before long. And it expects to take several years to establish a meaningful presence in the pension fund market, which is notoriously conservative.

Nevertheless, the news is of the pioneers of passively the genuine heavy hitters in the ranking second only to Fidelity as the world's largest mutual

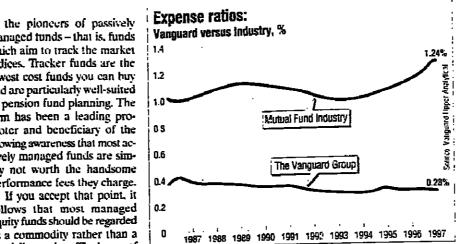
Just as interesting is the way

it operates. No other fund management company has quite the same ethos. As Vanguard has no shareholders, but is owned by the funds it manages, investors get the firm's service at cost. As a matter of policy, it pays no sales commission to intermediaries, and prides itself on having the lowest expense ratio of any fund management company. The company describes itself as the only mutually owned fund management business in the US.

interesting on several counts. managed tunds - that is, funds For a start, Vanguard is one of which aim to track the market indices. Tracker funds are the lowest cost funds you can buy and are particularly well-suited to pension fund planning. The firm has been a leading promoter and beneficiary of the growing awareness that most actively managed funds are simply not worth the handsome performance fees they charge.

> follows that most managed equity funds should be regarded as a commodity rather than a specialist product. The lesson of Vanguard's success is that low cost does not have to be incompatible with quality.

its mutual funds are the The other thing that marks cheapest in the industry. Its Vanguard out is that it was one



The facts certainly seem to agement costs) was 0.28 per an industry average of 1.5 to 2.0 bear out Vanguard's boast that cent, less than a quarter of the per cent a year. Note that these total costs, including the impact ble UK figures are at least as

average expense ratio last year of sales commission, it claims an (ie how much of its investors' even greater cost advantage funds were absorbed by man- 0.5 per cent per annum against industry average. If you look at are US averages: the compara-

high, if not higher, once you factor in the hid/offer spread.

low inflation world modest per- and £474,719. In broad terms, centages can make a huge impact—the value of your fund will be on long-term returns, thanks to 29 per cent - or £107,000 the power of compound inter- greater after 25 years. Put anest. For example, suppose you pay £6,000 a year (the current PEP limit) into an equity-based pension fund for 25 years. Suppose also you expect the fund to grow on average at 9 per cent per annum over that period, in line with the long-run real return on equities. How much difference does it make if you pay the equivalent of 2 per cent a year in fees rather than 0.5 per

cent over that time? Answer: a hell of a lot. The value of the fund, according to my maths, on the first basis will be: £94,279 after 10 years. £249,385 after 20 years and

£366,906 after 25 years. Factor in the lower fees and the sums As I have noted before, in a come out as £104,281,£305,171 other way, your fund manager has to consistently outperform the market by around 1.65 per cent per annum to earn back the cost of his higher fees.

While I have no idea whether Vanguard will succeed in Europe. I do know that if they think the European market is full of overpriced, poor value funds, as they clearly do, then everyone else in the industry is going to have to take notice. Call me a hopeless optimist, but I see it as further evidence that smarter consumers, willing to shop around. are starting to win the war against casy oligopoly providers.

UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET: JOHN ANDREW

Welcome to the paperless future

How to choose between holding a 'beneficial interest' or holding on to share certificates

The traditional proof of share ownership is a certificate bearing the name of the shareholder and the number of shares held in the company. In an effort to streamline administration, there is a move towards "paperless dealing" with certificates being replaced by a computer record held by a nominee company.

Many private investors prefer certificates as they are the only tangible link between them and the company which they partly own. There certainly is a feeling of security to have a certificate as proof of

an investment. paperless form of ownership. Just us there was an initial reaction against the abandonment of pass-books for bank savings accounts in favour of statements, investors will eventually accept the demise of certificates.

Meanwhile, sharebolders have the choice between a paper proof of ownership and using a nominee to hold their shares. Although some brokers proceeds of the sale five days ance which the broker carries have already established a two-tier commission structure. with shareholders having cerdeals, anyone corrently wishobliged to change.

a company established to hold shares and other securities on behalf of investors. Normally operated by a bank or broker, the nominee is the legal owner of the shares. However, the interest", which means they are Will you continue to get all that if there is say, a £20



End of the paper chase: Traditional share certificates are on the way out

and any increase or decrease holder rights in those comin the value of the shares.

Many stockbrokers are rec-shares? Inevitably, at some stage in formending that investors Although quirement, it does have certain advantages. The speed and certainty of the transfer of holdings means that the broker is able to give a more efficient service.

For example, when telebroker has immediate access to the "shares" and, therefore, the investor will receive the What is the extent of insurlater. However, an investor who has a share certificate will have to forward this to the brotificates paying more for their ker. The proceeds will only be paid when the certificate has system is certainly more con-

So what is a nominee? It is venient for an active investor. When deciding whether to place shares in a nominee account, consideration must be given to several factors. Here are the questions you should ask the broker:

vestors have the "beneficial in- What are the charges?

entitled to the dividends paid information and other share- charge for supplying a copy of panies in which you hold

For example, some comthe future, there will be an in- place their shares into the panies will not grant "perks" creasing pressure towards the broker's nominee company. to shareholders using a nomcompanies charge for supplying annual reports and accounts and papers relating to annual general meetings. ■ How often are dividends

> If only sent at intervals, will phoning with a sell order, the you receive interest on the money while it is being held by the nomince?

to guard against fraud and other contingencies for his business, including assets held by the nominee company? ■ What compensation arranging to remain traditional is not - been received. The paperless ements are in force in the event of the service provider going bankrupt or being

> wound up? Certainly, charges varies between providers. It is essential to obtain full details of these and the cost of any alternative which may be available. However, do remember,

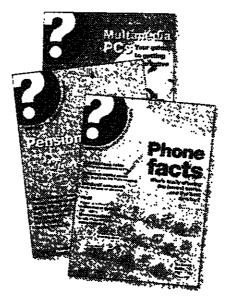
can side-step the fee by asking for a copy direct from the

All the assets held by a nominee company should be inee, while some nominee quite clearly distinguished from the assets of the stockbroking firm. Additionally, the broker should have insurance against fraud. In the event of the firm's failure, your assets should, therefore, be quite safe.

In the event of the nominee company failing and there being insufficient assets in the nominee account, it is possible for a claim to be made from the Investors' Compensation Scheme. However, this should be viewed as a last resort back-up. Claims are limited to £48,000

Providing nothing occurs to undermine the confidence in nominees, it is a dead cert that the life of the traditional share certificate is limited. However, I for one will not abandon the paper chase until I have to, or the additional costs outweigh the feeling of well-being. Call me old fashioned, but there is comfort in having a certificate as proof of an investment.

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How times are changing in the market

Tony Lyons looks at the recent revival in interest in the long-neglected investment trust sector

Life is becoming exciting in the world of investment trusts. After a period of lacklustre performance, which has seen the sector lagging behind the rise in top quality share prices, it is now going through a time of change.

Just recently we have seen investment trust managers being voted out by shareholders, while some funds have chosen to turn themselves into unit trusts.

The history of investment trusts dates back to the 1860s when a number of wealthy individuals formed a company to invest in bonds issued by the colonies and the USA, In 1868, this became the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, With net assets of £2bn, it is the largest of the 350 or so investment trusts listed on the stock market.

"In total, the market capitalisation of the investment trust sector now exceeds E52bn." according to James Rath, secretary of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Investment trusts differ from unit trusts and other collective funds in that they are public companies with their own board of directors. Their shares are bought and sold in the same way as any other listed stock.

Until a decade ago, because investment trusts were companies, they ofuld not promote their

own shares. The Financial Services Act let them offer savings schemes to private investors. The growth in personal pensions and personal equity plans (PEPs) has given trusts a chance to sell directly to the public and through

independent financial advisers.

Because they are listed on the stock market, share prices of investment trusts are determined by investor demand. If this is low, the share price can be below the trust's net asset value, the total value of its investments divided by the number of shares in issue. This is called a discount. Today, the average discount is around 12 per cent, allowing investors to buy El-worth of assets for 88p.

row discounts. Some trusts do this by buying in shares. Others are turning into unit trusts. A number of trusts have a winding-up date. For example, Invesco Blue Chip is currently winding up and its investors have the choice of taking their cash, transferring into Ingot, a new fund, or moving into a high-income unit trust or money fund managed by Invesco, Recently, Legal & General proposed to take on the management of the £340m Baring Tribune, an international trust.

and turn it into an index tracker. In some cases, trusts are

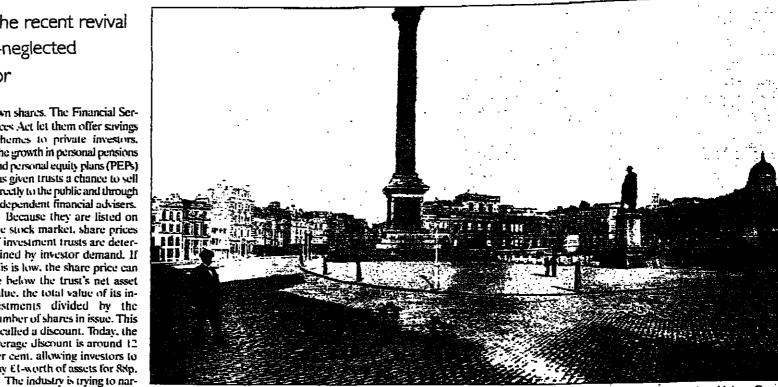
Foreign & Colonial invented

the investment trust in 1868

"to give the investor of moderate

means the same advantages as

the large capitalist".



changing managers to beef up performance. Managers are also being voted out. For example, last year Saracen Value Trust shareholders voted to move into Invesco's English and Interna-

tional Trust. Investment trust charges are low. Unlike typical 5 per cent initial charges with unit trusts, there is only the stockbroker's fee plus 0.5 per cent stamp duty when buying investment trust shares. Annual charges tend to he well helow 0.5 per cent a year.

Get a share of the action

Should you invest a lump sum or drip cash in, buy direct or buy advice? And what about PEPs?

By Tony Bonsignore

The investment trust industry has had a rough ride in recent years. While unit trusts have seen their popularity rocket, investment trusts have been dismissed as too complex. At the same time, their performance has also been sometimes unjustly slated.

All of which is rather unfair. Investment trusts remain an excellent investment choice for many people, with the average, long-term investment trust performance better than an average unit trust's. And investment trust groups have worked hard to entice private investors into buying their shares.

If you have a lump sum to invest, then it is easiest to buy dihave a wide variety of different shares on offer, from ordinary shares to those which will not pay out a dividend but may reward you with more capital

You can consider using your personal equity plan (PEP) altrusts. This allows you to invest up to £6,000 before next April,

tax. Investors are allowed one proportion of investment trusts qualify. To check, contact an individual manager directly or call Trust Companies (0171-431 5222). The AITC produces a monthly guide, with details of the investment trusts available. as well as a number of factsheets.

Investment trust PEPs are available from as little as £500. subject to the £6,000 limit and up to a quarter of the total can be put into non-qualifying trusts - those companies which do not invest European stocks. Again. your plan manager will be able to tell you what is on offer.

PEP investors have also been boosted by the news that any investments made before continue when PEPs are then replaced by individual savings accounts (ISAs). Investment trust ISAs, meanwhile, should start appearing next spring.

Alternatively, you can invest rectly. Many trusts, however, scheme from as little as £25 a The other option is to seek

growth. Your stockbroker or fi- decide how much to invest each nancial adviser should be able month and pay this to your plan to help you through the maze. manager via a standing order or it is often worth the investment direct debit. Most allow you to in later years. IFA Promotion increase or decrease your con- (0117 971 1177) can provide you lowance to buy into investment - tributions each month without - with a list of independent adpenalty. The majority will also visers in your area. let you invest the occasional and any gains you make will be lump sum or even stop paying free of income and capital gains your contributions for a while. 'Financial Adviser'.

Regular savings plans have PEP plan each year and a large a number of benefits. Feeding your money in bit by bit means your cash would be not be hit as hard as it would be if the marthe Association of Investment ket crashed immediately after you invested a large lump sum. It also means you buy shares "cheaply" as prices fall, which will be worth a lot more if they rise later on.

A number of other options are available. Some groups offer You can add more money later, a share exchange facility, where the company will switch your other investments into investment trust shares. Others allow you to swap at minimal cost between different trusts in the group. Again, the AITC can provide full details. Investors must also decide

how they want to buy their investments. Some choose to buy April 1999 will be allowed to direct from the investment trust itself. This can the cheapest way, but cost is only part of the story. A saving of, say, I per cent is irrelevant if your particular trust is a poor performer. It is worth checking out the manager in a savings and investment before you go down this route. month. Some groups offer reg-advice. A good stock broker or ular-savings plans, some have independent financial adviser designed them for PEPs, while will be able to recommend a a few offer personal pensions. suitable trust, as well as helping With these schemes, you you with your overall financial planning. Of course, you will have to pay for the advice but

Tony Bonsignore writes for

Growth of £1 MN invested in 1977

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	Foreign & Colonial investment Trust PLC	Unit Trust Average	Building Socie Average
1977	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1982	£2,080	£1,981	£1,576
1987	25,399	£4,954	£2,362
1992	£15,098	£8,057	£3,652
1997	£27,078	£13,764	£4,547

Many consign their savings to the low returns of a deposit account, wary of stockmarket ups and downs. But whilst success rarely comes overnight, in the long run stocks and shares have outperformed other types of saving and investment. Investing in them through investment trusts adds flexibility and dilutes risk by spreading money across stocks, markets and sectors; an idea we invented some 130 years ago. Today, our Private Investor Plan savings scheme opens the door to one of the best performance records in the industry. Invest from just

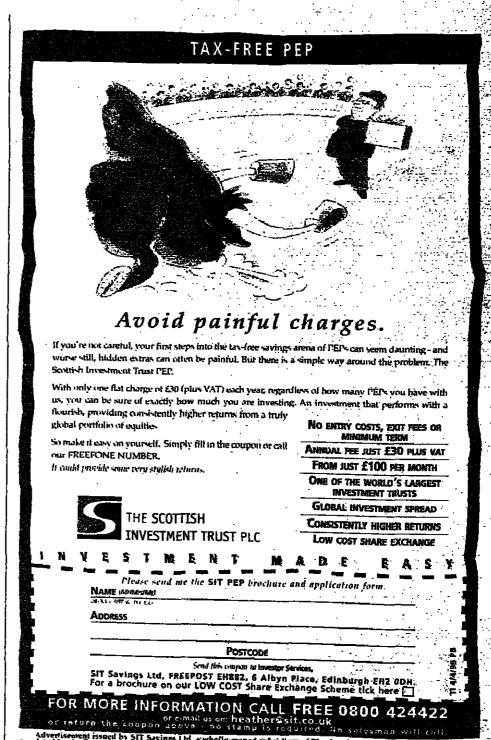
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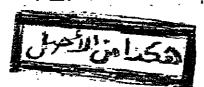
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A division of the spoils

Split-capital trusts aim to please all investors all of the time, whether they want income

or growth. David Prosser explains

The trouble with most investment trusts is their dual personality. On the one hand, they're charged with increasing the size of your capital investment. But investors usually also want income, in the form of dividends. So to varying degrees, managers have to please two audiences.

Enter split-capital trusts. Splits offer at least two types of share class - sometimes more - so that investors can buy shares tailor made for their needs. They also have a winding-up date, when the trust will sell its assets and distribute the proceeds to shareholders.

This focused structure is attractive. Income seekers can buy a split's income shares, for example, without worrying that the manager's strategy will be compromised in an attempt to produce capital growth.

However, be careful with splits. "I'm not sure investors always understand the risks," says Annabel Brodie Smith, of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Some split trusts' shares are pretty risky. When a split winds up, there is a pecking order which says who gets paid first. Investors at the front of the queue are at less risk of losing money. In return, they expect less exciting returns. Further down the ranks, investors meet this commitment. But hope for bigger bucks. They

accept more risk. Zero-dividend prefer- there are. ence shares are the least Zeros are popular with April.



risky type of split-capital investors who need a certain trust share. They pay no incapital sum on a certain come during the life of the date, to pay school fees, split but shareholders get a perhaps. Barring disaster, fixed capital sum when the trust winds up. Mind you, there is a risk that the trust will not have enough assets when the time comes to zeros almost always have the first claim on what assets

you can be sure the money will arrive. Moreover, since zeros pay no income, you do not pay income tax on the shares. You won't pay capital gains tax either, unless any profit you make takes you over your annual CGT allowance - £6,800 from 6

Stepped preference shares are also low risk, though they are becoming increasingly rare. Investors get a fixed capital sum when the trust winds up, paid once the zeros commitment has been met (occasionally before). Stepped preference shareholders also get fixed dividends each year, which rise at a guaranteed rate.

Income shareholders, meanwhile, usually get all

the income generated by a split-capital trust after the stepped preference shareholders, if there are any, have been paid out. However, when the split winds up, income shareholders just receive the value of the shares at issue, but only if the trust has enough assets to meet this commitment once other shareholders have been paid.

There are two variations

on the income-share theme. Annuity shares offer a high income but holders get a tiny sum back on wind-up. Investors in income and residual capital shares, sometimes called highly geared ordinary shares, get all the income from the split, after any prior charges, plus all the capital left at wind-up once all other shareholders have

been paid. Capital shares, which are never issued by a trust with highly geared ordinary shares, offer the highest risks. You get no income but all the capital when the split winds up, after all other shareholders have been paid. The worst-case scenario is that the split's investment performance is so bad there is nothing left to pay you on wind up. But if the split does well, capital shares offer potentially sizeable profits.

Some splits offer two share classes, others are more complicated. Splitcapital trust managers quote hurdle rates for each class of their shares. These show the annual growth rate the split must achieve on its investments for investors to get their capital back on wind up. Compare hurdle rates carefully - the higher the rate, the riskier the

However, if you know what you are doing, splitcapital trust shares are very useful because they produce specific types of return that are handy for financial planning. The key is the phrase "if you know what you're doing". Graham Hooper, of independent adviser Chase de Vere, warns: "People don't always understand the technicalities, so it's important to take advice before buying."

David Prosser is features editor of Investors' Chronicle'.

The Association of Investment Trusis publishes factsheets on split-capital trusts. Call 0171-431 5222

Better returns on asset values

Professional vultures are moving in on trusts trading at deep discounts. David Prosser considers the pickings for small investors

The £52bn investment trust sector is having a rough ride. As a whole, it produced a 9 per cent return over 1997, not even half as good as the performance of the UK stock market. Worse, from managers' point of view, a group of opportunistic investors is circling the sector, picking on vulnerable trusts one hy one.

To find the cause of the current crisis, go back to 1993. This was the height of investment trust popularity. so many managers launched a string of new funds or raised more money for their existing trusts. The mood was buoyant, with demand exceeding supply for many launches.

Since then, it's all been downhill. Most investment trusts, especially some of those new issues, have performed disappointingly. Even more damaging, the share prices of many trusts have slipped to wider and wider discounts to the value of their assets.

With too many investment trust shares in issue and prolonged middling returns, the situation became serious last year. The average trust discount reached 13.5 per cent, but that masked many discounts of over 20 per cent.

John Szymanowski, an SBC Warburg analyst, reckons something has to give. "Funds with mediocre performances, poor strategies and wide discounts are going to be picked off," he warns.

And that's exactly what has been happening. Several large predatory investors have taken big stakes in some of the weakest trusts and forced change. Their strategy is simple: if you buy assets at a big discount to their value and then make the trust take action to reduce that discount, you profit without the value of the trust's assets having to grow.

In fact, two types of predator are at work. First, stronger trusts, such as Scottish Value, have been buying into their weaker rivals and puring pressure on their boards. Advance UK, chris-tened a "vulture fund" by many when it was lounched last year, raised £50m from investors backing this philosophy. Second privately owned US companies, known in the industry as arbitrageurs,

are pursuing a similar strategy. Initially, the predators use their stakes to press the weaker trusts' boards into cutting discounts through restructurings, share buy-backs or conversions to unit trusts. If this doesn't work, they have several options, in some cases forcing takeovers or the re-

placement of a trust's manager. In high-profile victories, the arbitrageurs have even forced Kleinwort Overseas and Fleming Far Eastern. two large funds, to close, selling their assets and distributing the proceeds to shareholders. In response to predatory activity, a string of trusts, including Baring Tribune, Broadgate. Continental Assets. Henderson Greenfriar and Overseas, are all preparing

proposals to reduce discounts. Not surprisingly, discounts have fallen as a result of all this activity. But Mr Szymanowski thinks the battle is far from over. "There's further to go" he says, "Performance itself is no longer a guarantee of survival. Not only must you perform, you must also keep your discount down."

Peter Walls, an investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnais, agrees. "1 think more deals will be announced even though there's so many already on the menu," he says. Mr Walls believes the opportunism of the predators, combined with the dissatisfaction of many smaller shareholders, will result in yet more rationalisation.

This is all good news for investors. Failing discounts will unlock the value held by many trusts. In some cases, restructurings and wind-ups have quickly released sizeable profits from trusts on wide discounts.

But be careful playing the game yourself. Small investors have less influence than the predators. And, as Mr Walls points out, poor performance negates the effect of lower discounts. "Buying on a 15 per cent discount is fine," he says, "but if you lose 30 per cent of the assets in six months, it's not very profitable."

David Prosser is features editor of 'Investors' Chronicle .

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overseas. An initial charge is usually made when you

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directly reflect the overall NAVs of the trusts.

shares of its four trusts.

the process. 99

A look at what's on the table

Figuring out which funds to invest in is never easy.

Andrew Barker

offers a guide

Everyone knows the warning "past performance is no guide to future performance" but, in the right context, past performance can provide valuable information when considering investment trusts. Before you use performance figures, however. it's worth looking at how they are calculated.

Performance and costs The main thing to bear in mind with investment trusts is that they are companies. They issue shares which investors buy and sell, and

they also hold other companies' shares, which make up their portfolio of underlying assets. All shares have a bid and offer spread. The bid is the lower price. at which you can sell the shares, and the offer is a higher price, at which you can buy. Most spreads for investment trusts are below I per cent. When looking at per-

formance, shares are quoted on a mid-market basis, ie the price between bid and offer. Other costs to be taken into

ing vary. Stockbrokers tend to value (NAV) performance, on charge commission based on the the other hand, is the perforvalue of the transaction. If you don't need advice, there are low cost, execution-only dealing services which, again, usually charge a percentage of the transaction.

The cheapest method, however, tends to be that of investment trust savings and investment schemes, where charges start as low as nil.

Working out a meaningful average based on all this is not easy. Most performance figures for investment trusts are therefore calculated on a midmarket basis, excluding costs. Unit trusts can only be

bought and sold through the managers, so the bid/offer spread can be precisely determined for each unit trust and performance calculated on an offer-to-bid basis including all charges.

Whenever the Association of Investment Trust Companies calculates average performances we use offer-to-offer figures for unit trusts. These exclude charges and are therefore comparable with mid-market figures for investment trusts.

Share price and NAV performance

account includes stamp duty, a performance will obviously be of

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fixed charge levied on all share immediate interest to investors purchases, currently 0.5 per cent. as they give a guide to the re-The costs of buying and sell-turn to shareholders. Net asset mance of the underlying portfolio that drives the share price and offers a valuable guide to the management of the underlying assets of the investment trust. The NAV is the value of the total assets held, less any liabilities, divided by the number of shares issued by the invest-

Total Return

Performance figures are usually calculated on a total-return basis. This simply means that income as well as capital is taken

ment trust. It is therefore directly

comparable with the share price.

The share price total-return figures shown in our tables are based on a £100 investment over the period. It assumes shares were bought at the mid-market share price at the beginning and that any dividends received were reinvested to buy more shares. We assume the total investment was realised at the mid-market share price at the end of February 1998.

NAV total return is calculated in a similar way, assuming that £100 was invested in the NAV and that any income Figures based on share price earned by the investment trust

Investment Trusts Ten-year performance International: General Size weighted average of sector

Comparing Like with Like You can't compare a UK investment trust with a Far East specialist - the markets are vastly different and the recent strength of sterling will have had a big effect on the end result.

It will be more helpful if you.

prepared to accept and compare the performance of trusts within that sector, the more formance on both counts. specialised the market, the higher the risk.

of the trusts within the sector on

decide on the risk profile you're both an NAV and share price total-return basis. You want trusts that deliver consistent per-

Andrew Barker is chairman of the Compare the performance Association of Investment Trust

Investment Trusts Ten-year performance UK: Income Growth

Invest with the

Geared up for better long-term performance

factors that offer investment over 30 per cent were common. Action may be forced on a trust investors the potential for They narrowed significantly af- board. An investment trust on

and value for money. "Gearing", which is simply a technical term for borrowing, is one way of enhancing the performance of the underlying assets of a trust. The funds can take out loans to buy more assets in the expectation that these will rise in value.

The loan has to be repaid at a later date but the more total assets rise in value the greater the proportional benefit to shareholders, because the value of the loan remains fixed. Effective gearing relies on the expertise of the manager. In rising markets, it enhances shareholders' returns but in falling markets it has a correspondingly negative effect. Good underlying performance is the most important factor in driving up the price of a trust's shares, so investors benefit from successful gearing.

Investment trust shares are valued in the stock market according to supply and demand. Most trade at a price that is lower than the underlying net asset value per share (NAV). This is called "trading at a discount".

The discount is the difference between the NAV of the assets held in the trust and its share price, calculated as a per-centage of the NAV. For ex-ample, if the share price is 90p and the NAV is 100p, the dis-count is 10 per cent. If the share price rises above the NAV, it is trading at a premium. This is rare but it can occur when there is particularly high de-mand for the shares of a trust.

The investment trust indus-

Gearing and discounts are two in the 1970s, discounts of well change the investment policy. defier long-term performance—fer the late 1980s, when the tax—a wide discount, with an attrac regime became more favourable tive portfolio of investments and low-cost investment trust may find itself the subject of a savings schemes and PEPs were takeover bid. While a takeovers launched. As a result, demand may enable shareholders to refor the shares increased.

The narrowing of discounts to single figures in the early 1990s, however, encouraged new launches. This inevitably led to over-supply. Investment trust companies have a fixed number of shares in issue which they cannot readily reduce or increase in the way unit trusts can. When supply outstrips demand, discounts widen.

Investment trusts have no control over the discount but their boards of directors have a duty to shareholders to address poor performance, and they can do this in a number of ways. Savings schemes and PEPs, for example, have encouraged demand and enable investors to buy investment trust shares on a regular monthly basis or with an occasional lump sum at favourable rates.

Investment trusts can buy back some of their shares to reduce supply, although their ability to do this is limited. The Association of Investment Trust Companies is exploring ways of making buy-backs easier for investment trusts.

If asset performance is poor, the board may change the manager. If share price performance is poor, the board Free information on investment could wind up the company to enable shareholders to realise their investment nearer to the NAV. Alternatively, they could unitise, changing to a unit - Annabel Brodie Smith works try's average discount currently trust; restructure, possibly into for the Association of Investment

alise investment at a value close to the NAV, the costs of the liquidation will reduce their return. So shareholders must weigh up the pros and cons of a possible quick profit today compared with the potentially greater, but longer-term, benefits of continuing to hold the investment.

Such corporate activity does not signify that the investment trust industry is coming to an end, as some critics have predicted. It's just the market's way of restoring balance when supply and demand are out of line.

So are discounts automatically a bad thing, as is often as-sumed? If you can buy a good quality product for lower than the retail price, you don't hesitate, and the same principle applies to investment trusts. If the investment trust has good underlying asset performance, it meets your investment criteria and is trading at a discount, consider it a buying opportunity.

Over the long-term, the discount pales into little significance where performance is concerned. And, historically, investment trusts have delivered excellent performance. - .- Innabel Brodie Smith

trusts, including a factsheet on Investment Trust Discounts, is available from the AITC on 0171-531 5222.

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Win the traffic-light grand prix

If getting to work quickly is the nut you want to crack, then the performance of the Gilera FXR 180 Runner is a sledgehammer. Commuting need never be dull again, with this insane hybrid of motorcycle and scooter. Martin Round reports

Fancy a race from the lights? If your car can't do 0-60 mph in 5.4 seconds, then don't bother. Many motorcycles can't match that, either. For a twist-and-go scooter to perform with such venom is simply unheard of. Or it was until now,

Britain has begun to wake up to the massive convenience offered by the latest generation of automatic scooters: light weight, manoeuvrability, and space to store a crash helmet. Piaggio, the Gilera's Italian manufacturer, is the first company to combine these features with traffic-terrorising performance.

Power for the Runner is supplied by a 180cc two-stroke engine with lubricating oil injection. The blistering acceleration is thanks to the 21hp engine, and the seamless variomatic transmission system. Automatic transmission in a car may mean less acceleration, but variomatic on a scooter means best use of the available power.

I found it all too easy to hold the throttle open a touch too long around town, and the constant engine revs give no indication that you may be doubling the 30mph limit. On the open road, the speedo can nudge 90mph downhill. though this feels maybe 5mph optimistic. Where the extra performance is most welcome is during overtaking. In as long as it takes to think about a manoeuvre and open the throttle, you can problem is slowing down again.

The greatest problem with the automatic transmission on today's scooters supposed to improve handling. is the almost total absence of engine braking, hence the Gilera 180 needs all and does handle acceptably for everythe brakes it can get. Thankfully Piaggio has endowed it with a 220mm front hooliganism. In that idiom the chassis disc, griped by a twin-piston sliding hyd- can get rather upset, particularly on be worth investing in a Piaggio plug-



brake helps to bring the machine to a halt quite sharply, but without fuss.

The chassis of the machine is unusual for a scooter, in that the area between the rider's legs is not open. Instead there be past any A-road obstacle. Your next is a high central tunnel in the bodywork, containing the fuel tank, battery and a "central rigidifying beam" which is

The FXR runs on wide 12-in tyres day use, but the engine encourages raulic caliper. The 140mm drum rear bumpy corners taken at speed. It needs

either better suspension, or a modicum of restraint from the pilot.

Build quality is pretty good, and Piaggio officis a three-year warranty, but there are still a few niggly points with the design. The turning circle is unusually large for a scooter, which takes the edge off its ability to filter through thick traffic. Also the mirrors don't adjust well, and the helmet bay under the

seat is a tight fit with some belmets. One thing that the Runner really could do with is extra security. It will

The Gilera sells for a not unreasonable £2,650 on the road. There is a 125cc learner-legal variant for £2.350 OTR, and even a 50cc version (£1,999)

which can be ridden on a car licence. Still, the 180cc FXR remains the one to get, and the same goes for the 180cc Piaggio Hexagon, which shares the same superb motor.

As the road system gets increasingly strangled, you need a good strategy and the right weapon. The FXR is it.

The writer is assistant editor of 'Scooterin alarm system or armoured cable lock. ing International'.

Nose-bleed acceleration:

production scooter vet to

Gilera Runner FXR 180

Price: £2,650; weight: 115kg

Transmission; belt drive

Top speed: 85mph

(claimed)

Engine: single cylinder 180cc, two

Acceleration (0-60mph): 5.4 sec

Italjet Formula 125: (£3,250):

High-tech Latin lovely with hub-

scocter both looks and handles

better than the Gilera, but the

IAcc twin-cylinder motor is no

match. Compared to the 125cc

70mph, learner-legal Italiet is

Arriving in April, this bigger-

capacity version of the Aprilia's

extra punch for an 80mph top

speed. Acceleration and

nearly £1,000 dearer.

Runner, things are closer, but the

Aprilia Leonardo 150: (£2,745);

handsome 125cc four-stroke packs

nimbleness would be improved if

the 130kg machine went on a diet.

Honda Foresight 250: (£3,999)

Heavy, solid construction counts

make it less nimble in thick traffic,

against it on acceleration, and

but it's a pleasure on the open

road. Legendary build quality -

but at a hefty price.

centre steering, but only one year

warranty. The nearest rival sports

the Gilera is the fastest

burn rubber on tarmac

GAVIN GREEN

Chancellor Gordon Brown is likely to be easing envious glances at Singapore this week. And his friends over at the Department of Transport will see how Singapore's hold new toad-pricing experiment fares, before unveiling its own spring White Paper.

Singapore is well versed in taxing the stuffing out of drivers. It has the world's highest motoring taxes. A humble Vauxhall Vectra, for instance, costs the equivalent of £42.000 - three times the UK price. Most of that goes to the tax man. Now a new type of road tax - Electronic Road Pricing (ERP), the world's first widespread use of electronic tolls - has come into effect.

The system works simply, and tests show few glitches. Gantries, placed over major trunk roads. "read" cash cards displayed on top of the dashboard and automatically deduct credit. The cash cards can be bought from a variety of outlets, like the phone cards they resemble. The most popular value seems to be \$\$30 (about £8). They are placed in ugly black boxes, about double the size of a eigarette packet. called In-vehicle Units (IUs), usually fitted just in front of the driver. Every time you pass under a gantry, the IU beeps momentarily, your card is automatically "read" and credit is deducted. The credit left on the card is briefly displayed on the IU. Charges vary according to the time of the day, from 80p to 40p. You pay more for rush-hour travel; but if you travel at quiet times, it's free.

At present, ERP works only on one major feeder road leading into the city; other trunk roads will follow in September. There will also be an extra charge for entering the town centre, likely to be 80p a go in peak time. A driver commuting to the city centre will thus soon be paying \$1.60 a day.

I asked an official what happens if a car, passing under an ERP gantry, fails to have a valid cash card. He seemed somewhat nonplussed by the question: why would anyone want to do that, I could sense him thinking. (Singaporeans are incredibly lawabiding, which is just as well when there are so many laws - including one forbidding you to chew gum.) Anyway, he then relaxed. He must have realised 1 was English, so it didn't seem such a dumb question. Automatic cameras photograph those cars without valid cash cards. Big Brother is watching.

One of the few glitches concerned a Mr Yuen Ngok Onn, who found that the IU in his elderly Morris Minor was not beeping as it passed under the gantries, It turned out that Mr Yuen's windscreen, typical of an old car's, was insufficiently raked to give the ERP gantry a decent peep as it looked down. This will not be a widespread problem, for there are few old cars left in Singapore. Apart from cherished classic cars, all are scrapped when they're 10 years old - an expensive if far more effective way of curing exhaust pollution than increasing fuel prices every March.

There's little doubt that other countries that find motorists a convenient source of revenue, such as Britain, and those serious about integrated transport policies, such as Germany and Sweden, will follow Singapore's lead on ERP. As usual, all our own policy-makers are doing is talking about it, and performing a few half-hearted experiments. ERP may form part of the forthcoming White Paper.

Used properly, of course, it could be a useful tool in helping to regulate traffic flow in Britain, and a powerful dissuader to those who needlessly clogarterial roads at peak hour. ERP funds, and millions more raised from drivers, could be ploughed into public transport and better roads. Used improperly, it will merely be another motoring tax. History suggests that in Britain the latter is far more likely. Here is a chance for Mr Brown and the transport department to prove, as Henry Ford might have said, that history can be bunk.

Martin Pipe.

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A new take on the executive express

For the suited scooterist, Piaggio's new Hexagon has got everything bar the ashtray, writes Andy Gillard

"king of the maxis" for its re- company car park. designed, new Hexagon model. scooter-buying public began to take notice of this practical alternative. Now it is commonplace to find despatch riders and commuters alike battling through the helmet, gloves and maybe your traffic congestion in London on a Hexagon.

The new Hexagon is described by Piaggio as "the Second Generation Maxi Scooter", which may hum a little of grandeur but that's what it's all about. Gone are the old badges, which were a little tacky; they are replaced by an elegant chrome added to the legshields for a lit-

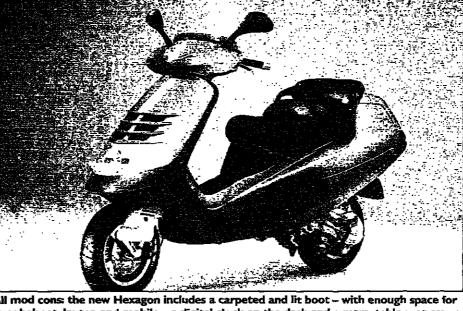
with a boot, both carpeted and lit. with enough space to store a crash laptop and mobile, too. Practical touches have also been included. possibly at customers' advice, such as the retractable seat cover for when it rains and a digital

clock on the dash. Overall there is very little difference in the look of the new model. A slight skirt has been

Piaggio is claiming the crown as statement, not out of place in the tle more weather protection while an extended handlebar Additions include the mobile cover offers the same to your fin-And in a way, quite rightly so, be- phone charger in the boot and the gers. The riding position is said cause it was not until the launch restyled back end which would to be improved, although the verof its first version in 1994 that the suggest that this scooter is defi-tically challenged may still have nitely to be parked in the "exec- trouble climbing aboard, but utive only" bays. Yes, a scooter once they do they will find it a pleasure to ride.

Larger wheels, better brakes and uprated suspension go together to make it subtly, yet vastimproved from it's

predecessor. While appearing to be both long and cumbersome the Hexagon is surprisingly light and easy to throw around, being exceedingly nimble upon request, And, unlike the Japanese maxi scooters which appear to many as scaled-down motor-



All mod cons: the new Hexagon includes a carpeted and lit boot -- with enough space for your helmet, laptop and mobile - a digital clock on the dash and a retractable seat cover

some to the first time rider.

Hexagon's stablemate, the Gilera Runner, lends the twostroke engines for the two models currently available priced at £2,799 (LX125) and £3.099 (LXT180) OTR respectively. The Italians have certainly beat- transmission being smooth and time? Maybe ...

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bikes, the Hexagon is far less awe- en the competition here because responsive to your throttle acthan it's nearest rival, albeit four stroke.

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even the LXT is £900 cheaper tion, the Hexagon now becomes not only the ideal way to comthe Japanese machines are both mute from the home counties to the West End, but a potential mile muncher at weekends 80mph achieved on the 180cc too. Will the Hexagon replace model, and with automatic the car during the summer-

MY WORST CAR: JAMES WHALE'S RENAULT 4



\$5 Just thinking about that Renault brings back memories - all of them truly terrible. It was far and away the worst car I have ever owned. At the time, which was some point in the late Seventies. I was living in Northumberland and had bought this heap to transport hales of hay around. I had got a job on a radio station in Derby, which was good news.

The really bad news, however, was that the only form of transport Haad was that terrible car. I literally tied it together with string, running pieces around the bonnet and on to the door to stop bits falling off. Obviously, it broke down - and I missed my first show.

I got towed to a garage and someone claimed that they could fix it. As soon as I got it into third evar, though, it ground to a halt. That was the start of endless problems. It is fair to say that the Renault was not a natural motorway car, especially when it had to cope with 150 miles a week. It was red - which was fortunate because at least you couldn't see the rust. Inside, it didn't even have proper seats; they were like deckchairs. Very uncomfortable.

If I had to sum it up. Td say the Renault 4 was like a Citroen 2CV but not so sophisticated. It proved to me that the French aren't as stylish as they like to think they are.

I broke down on the motorway twice, which in my book is about the worst crime a motorist can commit. Even now I go ballistic when I see a car on the hard shoulder. How can they be so stupid? Which is why I had to get rid of that rotten rust-bucket. A car dealer offered me a tenner for it and I jumped at the offer. After that, I saw the light. The future of motoring for me was shaped like a big car. I bought a Vauxhail Royale. For me it was the equivalent of a Rolls-Royce. I went straight home and took the family for a drive. Bliss.

As for that Renault 4, I should think that it has now been usefully reconstituted as some

James Whale presents Talk Radio's late evening show Monday to Thursday. 9pm to Iam, and also the 'Sunday Soupbox', 4pm to 6pm. He was talking to James Ruppert.

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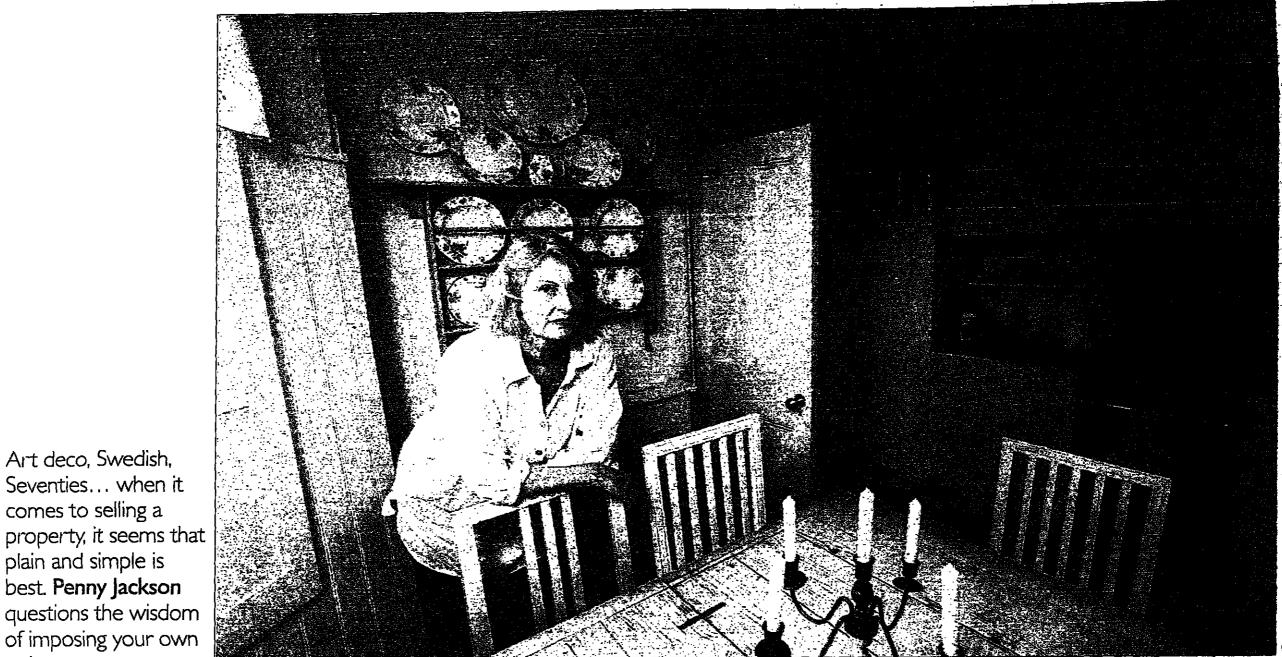
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One man's palace is another's nightmare



Swedish style: Sasha Waddeli's home is a perfect example of the love of simplicity and symmetry displayed in her book

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

In the wood-panelled kitchen with floorboards painted in chequerboard squares of blue and white the feel is one of freshness and space. The quiet natural colours of the corridor merge into a sitting room that seems surprisingly large and light for a narrow London house.

Art deco, Swedish, Seventies... when it

comes to selling a

plain and simple is

style

best. Penny Jackson

Then, from nowhere, a feature springs out as being remarkably familiar and a jigsaw of details gradually becomes a complete picture of Swedish design. Anyone who has pored over the ideas for panelling, shelving and artfully draped muslin is likely to have modelled their work on Sasha Waddell's Fulham home.

Her kitchen illustrates the chapter in her book New Swedish Style on painted floors; her fabric-lined bedroom on making curtains; the sitting room demonstrates the key

diators, even the cat sunning itself on the day bed gives a sharp sense of dejà vu.

Although Waddell was inspired by the castles and manor houses of Sweden, she fell in love with the proportions of her Victorian house. Unusually she has not knocked through rooms to create more space but instead has used design, colour and the trick of bringing natural light to indoor windows to create an airy feel.

"Rooms that have been joined together often look elongated and out of sympathy with the rest of the house", she says, "Sections look fine, but you have to see the whole room. It's no good looking at wonderful photographs in magazines and copying all your favourite details in your own home. That would make a pig's ear of it."

As Sasha Waddell finds herself moving elements of simplicity and symmetry. The in a new design direction, so she needs an neighbour is pointed magnolia with no house with a Japanese interior that is cur- arrive at the front door with its plastic flat cut-out balustrade that hides the ra- other blank canvas for her work. And she memorable details. The magnolia flat sold rently on the market for £1.9m as "an enor- awning you are taken back more than 20 Codrington: 0171 498 9960.

is not alone in wanting to start from scratch. The attractions of taking on a home that is unremarkable, plain, even dull, can be greater than acquiring something distinctive and exciting.

Buyers seem particularly intimidated by highly fashionable interiors that are inevitably a strong statement of someone's personality. "It would be like living with a stranger", remarked a woman after looking round one such apartment.

Nor are hearts necessarily won over by the no-expense-spared make-overs. The agents Douglas & Gordon recently had two identical flats for sale in west London. One has been featured in numerous magazines and is the last word in trendiness - wood block flooring, stainless steel and glass shelving and a dramatic use of colour. Its

almost immediately, while the first had to be reduced in price. "If a buyer walks in and says 'wow', that's great. But if they don't, taking everything out is too much hassle," says James Robinson for the

Peter Young of John D. Wood's Kensington office says if the wrong message is sent out, there's nothing you can do about it. "We had one house in which the main bedroom was painted completely black, with mirrors on the ceiling and sunken lights. In the middle was a brass bed with black, silk sheets. Men would joke about it, but the women were out of the house like a shot. We didn't sell the house."

If a style is easily reversible, there will normally be no problem finding a purchaser. Peter Young describes a Victorian

mously stylish blend of cultures. It has black painted floors and stark white walls with sliding screens of etched glass. But if the buyer doesn't like the black drawingroom floor, which has been taken back to the boards, it is easily covered up."

In west Hampstead, John D. Wood has on its books a flat that the owner has spent years turning into an art deco treasure. He has created an authentic setting for the furniture with an original fireplace, stained glass windows and black and white wooden floors. Even the hinges on certain doors were tracked down. But when can you charge a premium for a complete look and when does it become a drawback?

James Bailey, of Douglas & Gordon, recently found himself walking into a Seventies time-warp. "From the moment you

years. It was like walking into a film set. A lot of brown, grey and cream swirls and. of course, brown and orange. The main bedroom has silver wallpaper and deep mirrors on the wardrobes. But it was also architecturally interesting, going right up into the roof space. It also has a roof terrace and third-floor extension which they wouldn't be allowed to put in today." So how much for this Seventies gem? According to James Bailey, 95 per cent of people would rip everything out and start again. Instead of around £320,000 he would price it at less than £300,000. "People don't want to inherit someone's else character. But they'll pay through the cose for something clean and neutral."

Sasha Waddell's house is on the market at £320,000 through Foxtons (0171 565

Hymn to a village way of life

Vast changes have overtaken many districts of London. Robert Liebman looks at how the capital's villages have held up

When Penny Muir and her then husband were house-hunting in the early 1980s, they insisted on an area that was urban and also suitable for raising three young sons. The order was tall, perhaps self-contradictory. It was resolved by Crouch End.

Now, thoughts about grandchildren would not be inappropriate. Her two eldest sons and her husband have long left the nest, and her voungest is a gap-year wingflapper who, recently returned from an extended trip to the Middle East, has his sights set elsewhere.

Nestled in the Underground-free zone in north London between Archway, Highgate and Finsbury Park. Crouch End still blends urban ambience with pastoral pace. Alexandra Park, home to Alexandra Palace, is nearby, as is Parkland Walk, a former railway spur, now trackless and genuinely rusticated.

"Crouch End feels self-contained, and when you enter from Crouch End Hill, it suddealy appears almost dramatically in front of you. I certainly with solicitors Lewis Nedas in Camden Town.

The village-like flavour has numerous components: "Crouch End is an urban, not



Rural idyll: Penny Muir and her son Sam find peace and quiet in Crouch End, most definitely within the city of London

emotionally, not geographical-

Most of what is to hand conly ethnic restaurants in an amiable melting pot: "Crouch End is diverse ethnically but it all works well. My dry cleaners

fortable living here." Sam also feels that Crouch

anonymous. Everything is to of his social life consists of vishand, within reach, in a man- iting friends' houses and pubs. ageable unit - manageable all of which are local. "Being on the outskirts makes Crouch End countrified and green and suburby but you still have consists of a huge number of most-tact with the ciry. It is somehow insular. I leave only to go club-

Over the years, says Penny, "a lot of houses have been conare Indian, my wine bar is run verted into multiple occupanhy Greek Cypriots, and many of cies. Many young coupies have the shopkeepers know me by moved in - writers and adveridentify it as a distinct commu- name. It is a great pleasure on tising people. It is getting a Bonity," says Penny, a partner Saturday mornings when I go to hemian feel. There is still a good my local bakery and bump into mixture - students, families several people I know. It's o m- who have been here for years. ethnics."

To this pastoral idyll, Toby End reaches most of the parts. Muir, 26, a disc jockey cum le-tional. English village, life. any other major city I can think

jects a corrective in the form of definite genuine reasons," says "a little Socialist rant. Crouch Mr Farrell, who is an architect, End is a bowl, but it has urban planner, and chairman of end up where they began. When changed. Haringey Council sold off many Georgian properties liance. "London and English to the middle class. The working class has been bought out. the country's psyche is rural. with the council selling whatever was council-owned."

He admits, though, that it is no less of a village for this policy, only more "twee". His mother contends that "Crouch End does not have the poncey quality of Highgate and Hamp-Architect and town planner

Terry Farrell notes that today's are denser, reflecting military chektowers are like the old vil-needs and local political conlage pumps, the focus of tradi- cerns. London is different from 0171 580 5533; Tetry Farrell, 17 required by a 19-year-old. Most gal clerk cum decorator, inter- "London is a set of villages for of,"

UDAL, the Urban Design Alcities generally are rural because Even the monarch lived out of town. London is rural because

it genuinely grew from villages." Mr Farrell notes that "London has no underlying urban pattern, except for the City. stay here, and that is probably which is small." New York and the modern American model have a central downtown busi- Lewis Nedas, 24 Camden High ness area, and continental cities Street, London NW1; 0171-387

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Many urban planners have noted that Londoners tend to the time comes for Penny to put her house on the market, she warmly imagines, if money were no object, living in "an oldfashioned mansion-block flat in St John's Wood or Maida Vale or Hampstead, the kind of elegant flat doesn't exist in Crouch End. I'll be happy to what will happen."

2032; UDAL, cio RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4.4D; Hatton Street, London NW8 8PL; 0171 258 3433.



PENNY **JACKSON**

Rental market stays slim

A shortage of good quality property to rent is a complaint that still rumbles on. There may be new investors and a greater professionalism in the sector but good selling prices also beckon. The calmer mood in the market suggests to those owners who have been waiting for the right time to sell, that the green light is not going to get much greener. According to the Royal

Institution of Chartered Surveyors there are also. those who are put off by the cost of complying with furniture safety regulations. And from the tenants' point of view when they do finally get themselves installed they would like to be able to take a lease that is longer than the usual six months. A third of surveyors say that there is a demand for a new Assured Longhold Tenancy.

When an historic house in Hampstead village in London comes on to the rental market the chances of beating the corporate competition are slim. The agents Behr & Butchoff found themselves in the middle of a bidding battle

for an 18th century listed house. The two rivals - a bank and an oil company were bringing top executives and their families over from the US. The bank wound up the winner and is paying £4,000 a week in rent, making it the most expensive let in Hampstead. The oil company has to do some explaining to its president and his family.

Wates Built Homes are now giving buyers of detached houses a chance to get in on the ground floor when it comes to layout and design. They will be able to say what they want in structural layout, interior design, the garden and the method of purchase. Using the Imprint service, a buyer can ask for a major alteration such as a wall or something as small as a light fitting to be moved. Developers have learned that it pays to have the purchaser's input early on. Wates will juggle colours on room-by-room drawing boards and in the garden. herbacious beds and smart patios can be disched in favour of children's play areas if necessary.



The benefits of buying to let

Demand is growing for good rental property and there is money to be made, writes

At the risk of being banned from Butlins, can you spot a connection between Margaret Thatcher and the mother-in-

Ginetta Vedrickas

Malcolm Harrison, spokesperson for the Association of Residential Lettings Agents (ARLA) thinks he can. He links the Iron Lady and the gradual demise of old-style comedians' favourite person to his industry's current success.

"Margaret Thatcher pushed many into buying who otherwise may not have," Mr Harrison says. "Couples tend not to marry these days, there's not that pressure from the mother-in-law, so they rent rather than buy."

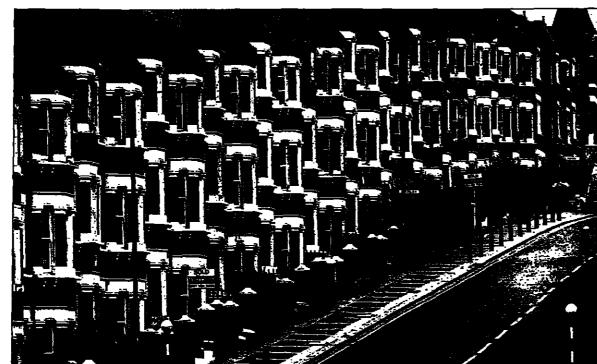
Is renting preferable to buying? And why are investors buying to let? The London lettings scene is complex and ket encapsulating corporate and private

Private rentals in the UK run at around 11 per cent compared to France lowances are going up." or Germany's 40 per cent. Rates are rising and pre-Budget jitters now seem like essary angst.

One agent confided: "We've been praying and waiting to see if that nice Mr Brown was going to hammer us. We're breathing sighs of relief as he's been pretty neutral about lettings and there are minor advantages in the small print." Buying British is obviously endemic but are things changing?

Many agents believe that buyers property. now delay until their mid-30s because of an increasing need for mobility. "Couples are too busy working these days, frequently on short contracts, so they rent for flexibility. They don't want the hassle of coming home and finding the drains blocked, they leave that to the landlord," says Malcolm Harrison, who sites divorce and separation rates as additional influences.

Susan Fitz-Gibbon, owner of Fitz-Gibbon Residential, has clients in all sectors of the market. Covering west London from Kensington out to Hamoton, Susan credits the big boys for an expanding market: "The corporates are will pay up to £1,200 per week for good-



it's hard to have an overview of a mar- Houses galore: but it's still easier to find somewhere to buy than a quality place to rent

new people and previously slashed al-

Susan has six clients chasing each property and many are let the same day. Investors are keen to buy in an area that is cheaper than prime London heartland and yields a greater return, so the suburbs are popular. "We aim for at least 10 per cent," says Susan: "But there's a huge need for more people to let."

Landlords who bought at peak prices sold once the market revived, leaving a paucity of middle market rentable

ARLA and seven members in the Council for Mortgage lenders launched the "Buy to Let" scheme 18 months ago to boost rentals. With investors able to borrow at 6.99 per cent fixed for three years, the scheme has helped to bring good quality properties onto the market. Andrew Reeves, a Bromley lettings agent, says: "You won't find granny's cast-off squirly carpets in these flats. They are aimed at thirties professionals in sound employment who are happy to rent providing standards are good."

But is the new investor a Rachman wannabe? "We've finally killed him off. Your average landlord is in his forties or coming out of the woodwork and they fifties," says Malcolm Harrison: "He's got his PEPs and his Tessas, Aunt Agatha dies

an investment he can walk past, he does- lems so far? "My only regret is not don't want to put it in Nick Leeson's pocket and have it floating off to Tokyo."

stereotype. She does have the maximum amount of Tessas and PEPs and chose the buy to let scheme to give her portfolio a "broader base of investment". Jo found that she would get the best return on a one-bedroom flat in west London, a popular area for rentals. Was the er than I thought. Agents were hopeless process complex? "I can't believe how easy it's been. I got a buy-to-let mortgage over the phone, handed over to the lettings agents and within two weeks a South African professional moved in cil properties and were very dodgy." straight from his hotel."

she is looking for a second property for Morgan, the Institute of Psychiatry's acherself and another for a friend overseas. Has she any tips? "Find a flat that needs minimal upkeep and decorate it in neutral colours. Mine looks incredibly fresh and if there's a choice of properties you know that yours will rent first."

Angela Folan, another investor through the scheme, agrees. Her two atives can sleep on the sofa." Bromley flats with monthly rentals of £475 and £550 currently bring returns of Buy to Let hotline: 01923 896555, Mon-10 and 12 per cent. Angela is happy for day-Friday 9am-5.30pm; Fitz-Gibbon agents to manage her flats and hopes to Residential, 0181 892 8921; Andrew take over when her children are bigger Reeves, 0181 464 8566.

er shoddy work.

It costs a builder nothing to

affirm that, yes, he belongs to

such and such a trade associa-

tion. It costs you almost next to

nothing to contact the organi-

sation for confirmation. If

builders were totally honest, the group representing electrical

installers would not have issued

this notice: "The Council has

come to an agreement with

Yellow Pages to prevent misuse

of the NICEIC logo by non-ap-

display advertisements."

proved contractors in individual

'Trust but verify'. That was

Ronald Reagan's slogan for

dealing with the 'Evil Empire.'

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Barnes, London SW13 9BL,

0181 748 6574; T Gauntlet

Building Contractors, 36 West-

field Road, Cheam, Surrey SM1

2LB, 0181 286 0134; Corgi, I

Elmwood, Chineham Business

ingstoke, Hampshire RG24

8WG, 01256 372200; National

Inspection Council for Electrical

(NICEIC), 37 Albert Embank-

ment, London SE1 7UJ, 0171

582 7746; Federation of Master

Builders, 14/15 Great James

Contracting

Installation

President, he was a cowboy.

sized family homes. They're bringing in and he's got a bit of surplus. He wants so that "it will be like a job". Any probing it sooner. Years ago my bank manager pooh-poohed the idea of a Jo Kitson, 31, doesn't quite fit the housewife doing such a thing, but this time it was so easy.'

Brendan Binnerman, a psychiatrist, wili be working in Camberwell, London for two years and is renting a one-bed flat nearby for £500 a month. Was it easy to find somewhere? "It was much hardand didn't marry up the right sorts of properties with tenants. I was turned down because I smoke and was shocked to find some flats turned out to be com-Are couples impulsive about the

Jo's return is around 12 per cent and sort of property they rent? Nadine commodation officer, helps visitors find short-let rentals and frequently sees aspirations shift downwards: "Visitors come for six months and hope that relatives will visit. Initially they want a twobed but when they discover the cost they swiftly change to a one-bed and say rel-

Investing in property? Look for a spot in demand

Although rental incomes have not risen in line with sales values, there is still money to be made, writes Mary Wilson

Investing in property is a capital idea, providing you buy wisely in a good location. Although rental yields - the annual rental as a percentage of a home's value - have not risen in line with sales values over the past 18 months, they still represent a good return compared with money in the bank.

In general, yields are currently around 7 or 8 per cent gross, but there are pockets all around the country where higher returns are achievable. And although yields might be down compared with two years ago, the value of your property will have risen significantly.

The secret is to buy a property for which there is a huge demand. This might be one- or twobedroom flats in London, a five-bedroom house in Surrey or a three-bedroom terraced house in the North-west. Good prospects should be had in a city where there is a continual turnover of employees, all looking to rent while they are on short-term contracts; somewhere with a university or college or an up and coming area, where purchase prices are low enough to produce a high percentage return.

In London, the traditional investment areas -Knightsbridge, Kensington, Chelsea, Mayfair - will produce a steady, but at the most an 8 per cent, return on your money. "It is difficult now to get double figures in London, but there are little pockets such as the Docklands and the City where it is still possible," says Jonathan Vandermolen of Blenheim Bishop. "Small apartments with one or two bedrooms will produce the best results, especially good one-bedders".

He is selling a new development in Warren Street, W1, which should produce a higher than usual rental return. "It is not in a prime residential area, so capital outlay is lower, but it is close enough to Oxford Circus to achieve 10 per cent," he says.

There is also a shortage of genuine loft space (former industrial properties with large open spaces) in London available for rent. "Gross rvestment yields on this type of property in City fringe areas such as Clerkenwell and Shoreditch are often in excess of 12 per cent," says Clive Martin, residential lettings manager with Stir-

City suburbs that are well located should produce satisfactory returns and sometimes a good quality, newly built development in an area that is easily accessible to London and the airport will see higher than usual rental returns. But remember when agents quote possible yields to take account not only of all charges and expenses, but also possible void periods, which n't enough to go round, so they will pay big premake a considerable dent in your income.

At Wentworth Gate, a Barratt development of apartments, town houses and large detached houses in Ascot, Surrey, some properties are set to achieve up to 12 per cent returns. "Homes in certain parts of Surrey which are near to the American schools are achieving very good premiums because of the high demand and lack of supply," says Lynne Mayell of Knight Frank, which is letting some of the properties.

"People who have bought early in the development will do best. Although returns might be a bit lower to start with because of the building, once that has finished the rents will go up" she says.

The good news for all those people who do not live south of Watford is that areas in the north are hot spots, too. According to a recent survey conducted by Mortgage Express, the North-west is currently the best place in the buyto-let property market.

These areas are popular because of the rental incomes that can be achieved," says Tim Dawson, deputy managing director. "The North-west leads the field because it has the added attraction that the investment required to buy properties is lower than many other regions across the UK."

The survey shows that the most popular operty to buy for investment in general across the UK is a two- or three-bedroom terraced house. Two- or three-bedroom post-1960 terraced houses come second, followed closely by flats and maisonettes.

"There is a lot of investment around Manchester," says Paul Heath of broker Langmore James Association. "Three-to five-bedroom terraced properties are all showing net returns of around 10 per cent. In Warrington, it is the twoup two-downs which are showing the highest. Hamptons has been monitoring rental properties around the county and the top spots are the Cotswolds, where a two-bedroom cottage in 1997 produced a gross yield of 6.75 per cent (with a 10 per cent increase in capital value): Beaconsfield where four-bedroom houses achieved over 10 per cent and Amersham, where a two-bedroom house achieved an 8 per cent

"These good returns are largely led by the number of applicants in the area," says Annabel Barnes, director of country lettings. "Certain parts of Surrey and Berkshire are particularly popular with relocating employees, mostly Americans, who all want the right house on the right bus route near the right school. There is-

Safe as houses – if you've a good builder

A trusty handyman can be the first line of defence against looming problems, writes

Robert Liebman

Through wonky windows, builders reveal their mettle. After 20 years of neglect, a four-bedroom semi-detached

house in south-west London was being thoroughly overhauled for new owners. Workers were fixing floors and renewing walls when builder Terry Gauntlet, replacing a rotten first-floor window, saw that a fungus was among them.

Dry rot is a mushroom-like infestation which, if left untreated, could develop into a serious, and seriously expensive, problem. Mr Gauntlet informed the owner, who immediately hired specialists. The infestation was localised, and the extra expense and mess were barely noticeable.

In Ealing, meanwhile, the surveyor for first-time buyers Loretta and Neill said that their windows needed replacing. Their handyman, Peter Daines, suggested a second opinion, namely, his own. "He examined the windows in the neighbouring houses, saw that they were original and told us ours could he fixed too," says Loretta. 'He saved us hundreds of runds, and now we are doing

er work in the house which "eviously couldn't afford." ssrs Gauntlet and Daines ong the legions of genbuilders and handymen om legions of homeownly. They belong to no trade iations, but neither are cowboys. Mr Gauntlet is ing about certain trade ciations whose member-, qualifications consist in hing more than paying a fee. Cowhovs conceal their dodgy pasts and knock on

strangers' doors. Legitimate

to serve new clients.

"We found Mr Daines through a friend of my mother," the couple restored their fireplaces, Mr Daines brought them tiles from the large collection of timber, doors and other discards that he has squirreled away over the years. "The tiles were old and old-fashioned, which was perfect for our living room. We never would have found such attractive and inexpensive tiles on our own."

She credits him, too, for his solution for their bowed interior wall. Instead of rebuilding the wall, "he installed a picture done by a fitter registered with rail to attract the eye. It's a visual distraction which hides the

Cosmetic work is not always innocent or advisable. Mr Daines says that he often has to undo earlier work done on the cheap, "especially work done in the wrong sequence. Many people can't afford full refurbishment, so they do the cosmetic work first, then when the building work is done, it ruins the cos-

Some builders excel as skive artists: "One homeowner hired me to fix a leak but I could not find the hot and cold valves. Finally I found them under some tiles. Obviously, a handyman had loosened the holding nuts on the valves and crisscrossed them over one another to lie flatter and closer to the wall. He wasn't doing plumbing. He was tiling, and when he found obstacles, he simply tiled over

Most British properties are old and, Mr Daines stresses, have had a succession of builders as well as owners. Some of these handymen have covered rather than corrected, resulting in what he refers to as "laminated concealment".

Fortunately, symptoms usually appear before total failure. enabling owners to budget for their repair or replacement. Mr Daines favours a shake test: • Most trade associations have Street, London WCIN 3DP, 0171

dations and are often too busy shake things - radiators, countertops, banisters, windows, all sorts of things. If something is loose, there's probably a probsays Loretta, who notes that he lem." Simple visual inspection was recommended for being is also informative. "If somehelpful as well as skilful. When thing is old, its time may have come. A radiator that is 20 years old is going to need replacing soon. Twenty-year-old radiators also look their age."

However, sometimes even the best jack-of-all-trades handyman doesn't suffice, whether for reasons of true specialist quality, safety or legality. Electric shock, fire or carbon monoxide poisoning are too steep a price to pay.

By law, cooker installation and other gas fittings must be Corgi, the Council for Registered Gas Installers. Some electrical work is also legally required, and even simple wiring jobs require professional expertise. A major fire can start from a poorly wired ball light as easily as from a faulty fuse box. With electrical work, warns Mr Gauntlet, "all you see is a plug, you don't see the wires behind." This normally sceptical builder strongly recommends using a member of the NICEIC, the electricians' association.

For their part, owners must exercise vigilance and self-assertiveness.

 References, references, references - good, honest reliable workers leave a trail of recommendations. Ask for references; don't besitate to interview several builders and get quotes Peter Daines, 20 Boileau Road, from each.

• Advance payments? The Federation of Master Builders asserts that "advance payments, particularly at the start of a job, should be avoided." Mr Gauntlet asserts, "don't pay until the Park, Crockford Lane, Baswork is done. People volunteer to pay me all or part in advance, thousands of pounds. Many people want to part with their money. I say, 'No, pay me at the end or as the work is done." Pay as you go, pay as it has

"Things should fit solidly. I genuine membership qualifi- 242 7583.

been earned.



Warming tale: Loretta and Neill were saved a lot of money by their builder, who also found them old tiles for their fireplaces Photograph: Philip Meech

PEDOC, DISTRICT OF SAIN ESTEPHE 1870's old store house with wooden beens/lire places, 3 bedrooms; double

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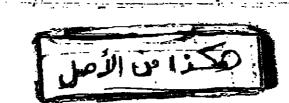
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Decorative prints in the frame

For a snip of the price of an antique you can find a set of framed prints to liven up your home, says Rosalind Russell

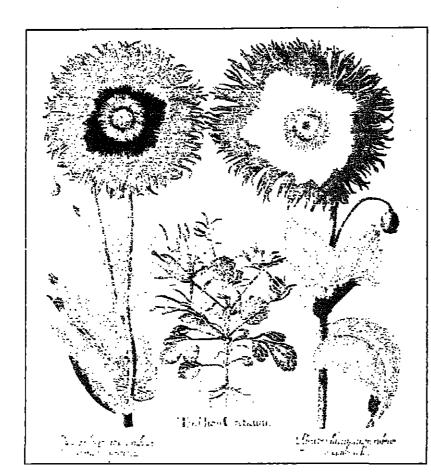
Artists may wince at the suggestion, but most people choosing pictures to hang in their homes pick ones that will match the curtains. This theory is supported by Martin Trowbridge. whose framed decorative prints business has an annual turnover

The son of an Admiral who was the last British Governor of Western Australia, Martin says his introduction to marketing art was "selling dodgy fake oil paintings door-to-door in the Sydney suburbs."

Preparing to visit his family during his holidays from Oxford University, he went through old copies of the Illustrated London News and ripped out pictures of Western Australia. For an outlay of a fiver each, on his arrival in WA he sold them for £150 each. Cheering work—the National Trust paints palette for an impecunious student who admits that being the son bolder schemes. "Nobody of the Governor was very use-

ful in business. The youthful entrepreneur's ambition was, at the end of his the room." degree course, to earn as much as his friends who went into antique and repro framed banking, but doing half the work. He appears to have succoeded. Now 36. Martin employs 50 staff, has a gallery in rubrum) taken from the 1613 London's King's Road and edition of Basilius Besler's

on the current fushions in prints range from £800 to £3,500. As and frames, he says, is the an extra, anyone buying a nummove towards using stronger, ber of prints from the gallery, the room." Twelve botanical im- scrum to get into. Artist Mar-



more unusual colours in fabrics and paint. Farrow and Ball and has encouraged decorators into would have looked at sepia five years ago, but it is popular now because it won't clash with

The Trowbridge Gallery sells prints, prices varying according to rarity of the image. A repro "Poppies" (Papaver laciniatum 'Hortus Eystettensis' costs One of the major influences £250, framed. Antique Beslers

a picture hanger, is offered the services of an expert hanger.

Moving on from "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" beginnings. the company is now firmly fixed in the upper end of the framed prints market. Print subjects cover everything from animals. fruit and domestic interiors to architectural drawings and medieval manuscripts. One of their most popular ranges - and Martin's own favourite - is the

17th century flower prints. They have a strength and simplicity to them, unlike the

and unsure about their skill as ages, representing one for each month of the year, are now being set in mirrors, made in the French style using gold and silver leaf. At £185 each plus VAT, they are proving very popular with collectors.

At those prices, however, customers aren't likely to be buying on impulse. Definitely land style, so it's not surprising cheaper and undeniably cheerful is the print range produced by Wiltshire-based Handmade

At the recent Country Living Fair at the Business Design mail order, the price is £10.99 Centre in London, their's was fluffier Victorian prints. They one of the few stands - among are more masculine, so men are a sea of lumpy ethnic jumpers. Trowbridge Gallery, 0171-371 happy to have flower prints in and sackcloth frocks - worth the

London Property



print taken from a 1613 Basilius Besler costs £250 ing the originals onto wood, so framed - other antique the effect is carried over onto the print. Topiary, botanical Beslers may cost anything images, fruit trees and herbs can up to £3,500. The 'Puffin' all be bought as sets, or singly. The range includes English print (above) by Martin Wiscombe is one of 32 images in the Driftwood art collection also sold as postcards. The framed prints can be purchased

naive art and American folk art. But the framed prints attracting the attention of most showgoers were those in the Wiscombe has painted a series of 32 images - also sold as postcards - depicting seaside scenes, including puffins, beach huts, lighthouses, fishing boats

THREE TO VIEW: TRADESMEN'S ENTRANCE



The Coachman's Cottage in the old Hampshire town of Odiham is a detached Grade II listed period house now in need of general refurbishment. In the conservation area and within walking distance of the high street, it has two interconnecting bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen and bathroom and off-road parking. There's no chain. On offer as £110,000 through Hill & Morrison (01256 702892).



Cobblers is a 16th century, four-bedroom house in the North Essex village of Clavering, near Saffron Walden. The tim-ber-framed cottage has an inglenook fireplace and exposed beams. The dining-room has a redbrick fireplace with an old range and oak storage cupboards either side. There is an organic 100ft rear garden and a garage. Offers around £225,000 to Mullacks (01279 755400).



Carpenters, in Chilham in Kent, is in a small group of houses adjoining the Chilham Castle Estate, six miles from Canterbury, and was built around 70 years ago in Tudor style. The four-bedroom house has three reception rooms, including a sitting-room with double doors to the garden. A private terrace runs the full width of the house, with steps leading down to the lawn and there's a greenhouse, gazebo, gazage and garden shed. Offers around £245,000 through Strutt &

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Driftwood art collection.

and seals. It's a very New Eng-

exports to the US have been en-

couraging. At the Country Liv-

were selling for £10 each. Via

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8733; Handmade Designs Lim-

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